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ZIDANE

FINAL ROW RUMBLES ON

TRANSFER SCRAMBLE!

VIEIRA AND ITALY'S TOP STARS UP FOR GRABS

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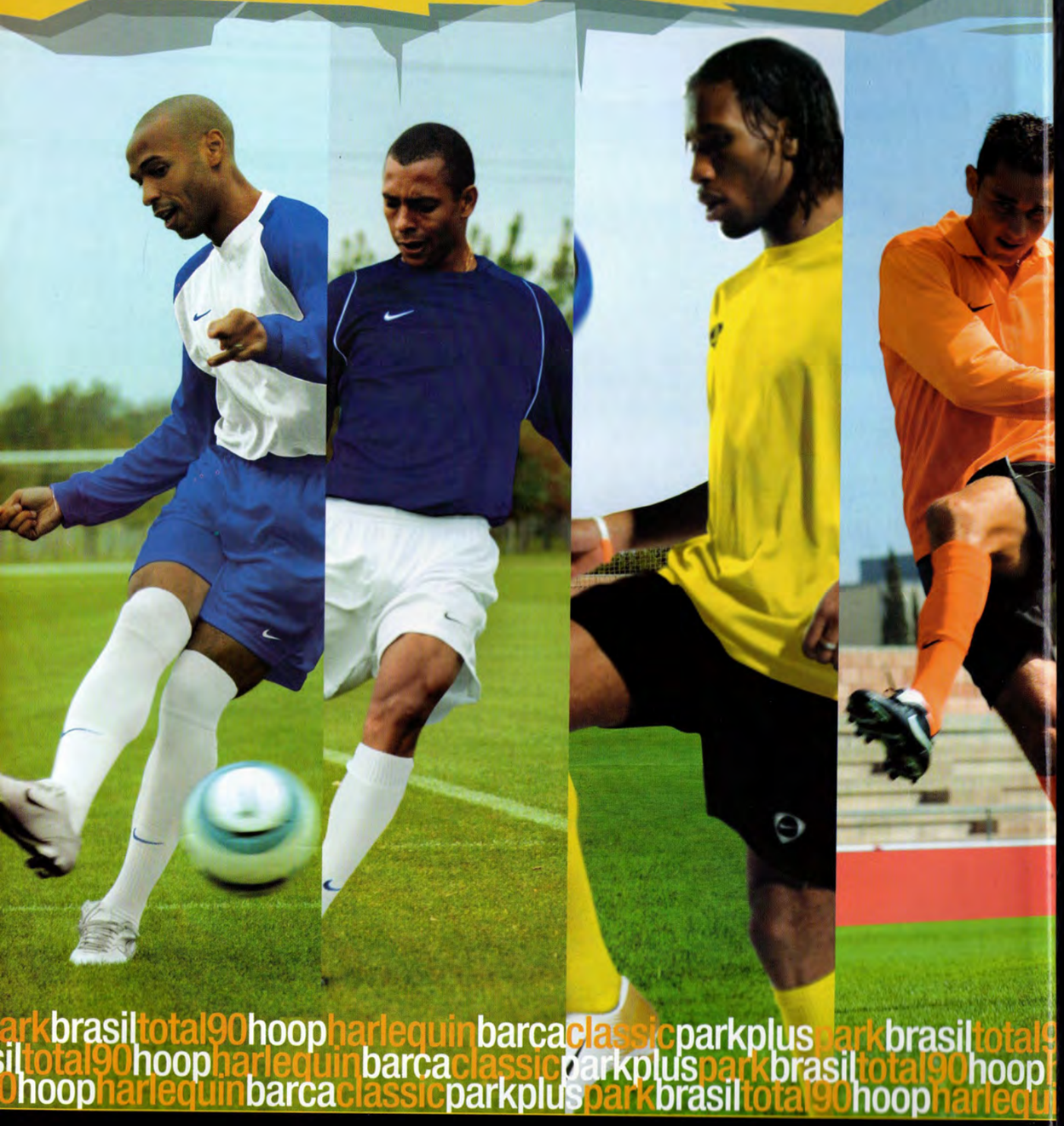
WORLD CUP POST-MORTEM

The final word from Germany...

NEW SEASON NIKE TEAM KIT

2006/07



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AUGUST 2006

WORLD SOCCER comment

TWO THINGS dominate this month's issue: our World Cup post-mortem and the summer transfer market. There was a time when the World Cup and transfers were inextricably linked. The stars of the finals could reasonably be expected to be playing for a bigger club on a better salary by the start of the next season.

Not any more. Going into the tournament, the level of knowledge about teams and players was higher than ever, and the number of players "spotted" in Germany and signed up as a result of their World Cup performances has been negligible as a result. The biggest deal of the summer (so far), Andrii Shevchenko's £30.8million switch from Milan to Chelsea, was signed and sealed long before the first ball was kicked in Germany. And even the players who emerged as unlikely heroes, such as Italy's Fabio Grosso, had agreed deals (Palermo to Inter) before the tournament began.

The biggest factor in this summer's transfer market has, instead, been something that nobody could have predicted just a few months ago – the relegation of Juventus to Serie B as punishment for their part in the match-fixing scandal that has gripped Italian football in recent weeks. Some clubs, such as Chelsea and Bayern Munich, have sensibly declared their reluctance to intrude on Juve's private grief by trying to snap up their best players, though Chelsea, conveniently, did their main transfer shopping before the World Cup. Others, such as Barcelona and Real Madrid, have been happy to take advantage of Juve's misfortune.

Juventus, as the club at the very heart of the scandal, always expected to have their best assets plundered. The contrast with Milan, Fiorentina and Lazio, the three other clubs found guilty but who have avoided relegation, is striking.

It's hard to escape the conclusion that the latter clubs have been let off the hook yet again by a system that is inherently corrupt. When the scandal broke, the watching world was promised things would be dealt with differently than before. The guilty would be punished, we were told, and there would be no wriggling out of it. Instead, the successful appeals that have let Lazio and Fiorentina back into Serie A and Milan back into the Champions League have an all too familiar look.

Later this year, UEFA will consider Italy's bid to host the 2012 European Championship. Are we expected to believe that the Italians can put their chaotic house in order in time? If UEFA has any sense, it will tell the Italians where to get off.

There are also important questions that need answers regarding the continued involvement at FIFA of disgraced ex-Italian federation boss Franco Carraro. Despite his punishment by the match-fixing tribunal, he continues to head the world body's internal audit commission. That probably tells you all you need to know about FIFA under Sepp Blatter: jobs for the boys, no matter how tainted their reputations.

Gavin Hamilton, Editor (gavin_hamilton@ipcmedia.com)

SAVE MONEY ON WORLD SOCCER

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ITALY: Critics of the Italian game were confounded by the *Azzurri's* World Cup victory. **Page 22**

● 09/07/06

You beauty…Italy players cherish the World Cup trophy after their win against France in the Final

● 10/07/06

Air display…planes create the Italian flag in honour of the *Azzurri's* World Cup triumph as the squad disembark from their flight home from Germany

● 12/07/06

Screen time…Zinedine Zidane goes on television to explain why he butted Marco Materazzi in the World Cup Final

● 18/07/06

Taking the helm…new Italy coach Roberto Donadoni is presented to the media

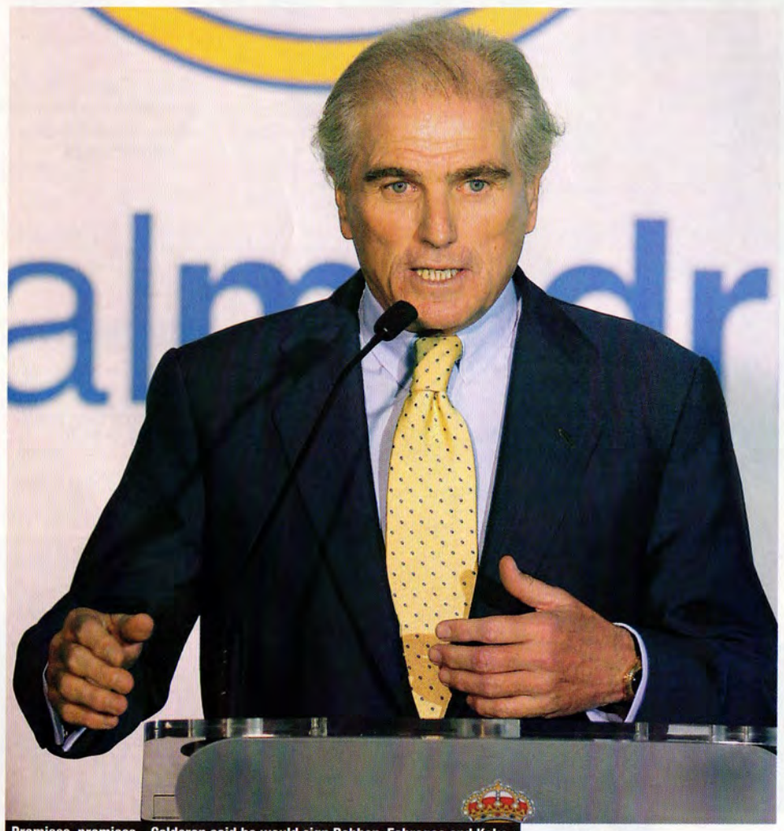
● 18/07/06

Mayhem…River Plate fans fight with police during their side's Libertadores Cup quarter-final defeat away to Libertad of Paraguay

HEADLINERS

RAMON CALDERON

The new Real Madrid president hits the transfer trail



Promises, promises…Calderon said he would sign Robben, Fabregas and Kaka

RAMON CALDERON HAS been busy over the past month trying to keep the promises made during his successful campaign to be elected president of Real Madrid.

In keeping with previous elections, all candidates made a series of manifesto pledges. Calderon, a 55-year-old lawyer, promised to sign Chelsea winger Arjen Robben, Arsenal midfielder Cesc Fabregas and Milan's Brazilian playmaker Kaka, as well as coach Fabio Capello and ex-Madrid and Yugoslavia forward Predrag Mijatovic as technical director.

While Capello and Mijatovic have been hired, it remains to be seen whether

> **'It remains to be seen if he can deliver on the player front'**

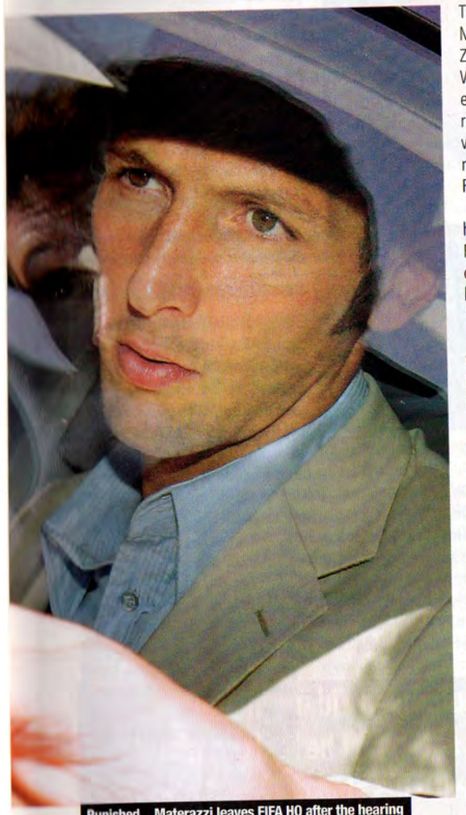
Calderon can deliver on the player front. Arsenal and Chelsea have insisted that Fabregas and Robben are not for sale, though Kaka's future at Milan is uncertain.

Calderon won 8,344 votes in the poll of club members, 246 more than former board member Juan Palacios and 1,642 more than former Madrid vice-president Juan Miguel Villar Mir. The two other candidates, former president Lorenzo Sanz and lawyer Arturo Baldasano, trailed in well behind the top three.

The election was sparked by the ousting of Fernando Martin in April. In a controversial move, postal votes were discarded.

MARCO MATERAZZI

The Italian defender gets a two-match ban for "repeatedly provoking" Zidane



Punished…Materazzi leaves FIFA HQ after the hearing

THE SPECULATION about what Marco Materazzi said to Zinedine Zidane in the white heat of the World Cup Final has done little to enhance the reputation of the lip-reading industry, with all sorts of wild theories being put forward regarding the words that tipped the Frenchman over the edge in Berlin.

Whatever, Materazzi has now heard loud and clear the view of FIFA's disciplinary panel – the Italy defender was given a two-match ban and a £2,175 fine for "repeatedly provoking" Zidane.

Materazzi will miss Italy's first two Euro 2008 qualifiers, against Lithuania on September 2 and, ironically, France on September 6.

Zidane was fined £3,260 and given a three-match ban. Since the Frenchman has retired from football, he pledged he would do three days' community service work instead.

Materazzi has continued to refuse to reveal what was said to Zidane, only what he didn't say. He told *Gazzetto dello Sport:* "I didn't say anything to him about racism, religion or politics. I didn't talk about his mother, either. I lost my mother when I was 15, and even now I still get emotional talking about her." Zidane also refused to quote the exact words, but did say that Materazzi had insulted his mother and sister.

Numbers game

919…

the number of people who turned up to watch Sao Caetano against Botafogo in a Brazilian national championship match on July 12.

151,424…

the number of current club members at Benfica, who are aiming to beat Manchester United's record of 152,000 by the year end.

2.3…

the average number of goals per game at the World Cup, the lowest since 1990.

13…

the number of times Ronaldo has been fined for speeding in Brazil in the past year.

2…

the number of countries bidding to host the 2014 World Cup after Colombia said they would throw their hat in the ring with Brazil's.

£16,224…

the fine handed to River Plate after a riot by their fans forced the Libertadores Cup quarter-final second leg against Paraguay's Libertad to be abandoned. Libertad were leading 3-1 at the time, 5-3 on aggregate.

£32m…

the reported cost to Alexandre Gaidamak of buying Milan Mandaric's 50 per cent share of Portsmouth.

● 19/07/06

We're through!...Internacional celebrate their Libertadores Cup quarter-final win against LDU Quito

● 19/07/06

Close quarters...Sao Paulo's Leandro goes to ground after a challenge by Alvarez of Estudiantes in the Libertadores Cup. Sao Paulo won on penalties

● 19/07/06

Meeting room...the Manchester United squad pose with Nelson Mandela during their tour of South Africa

● 20/07/06

Car chase...the media scramble to get shots of Zinedine Zidane as he leaves the FIFA disciplinary hearing about his World Cup Final butt

● 21/07/06

Scarf-waver...former Spain boss Javier Clemente is unveiled as Serbia's new national team coach

WS WORLD SOCCER Brian Glanville

...on Chirac's shameless eulogies for Zidane...FIFA's lip service to Kick Out Racism...government and FA inadequacies... Dirk Kuijt, good for club not country... and Newcastle's InterToto torment

Tete-a-tete...Chirac meets Zidane

THAT HYPOCRITICAL old has-been Jacques Chirac, the lame-duck president of France, was predictably disingenuous when he met Zinedine Zidane on the balcony when the French World Cup team returned to Paris. Without a glimmer of shame or restraint, Chirac, ever on the outlook for sympathetic audiences, eulogised Zidane without qualification, making no mention at all of the fact that he had got himself sent off with his abysmal retaliation, at the expense of a team who, at that point, still had the World Cup within their sights.

Not that this is in any way to exonerate Marco Materazzi, who has a disciplinary record as long as your arm. Three times sent off when playing for Everton, guilty of a shocking foul when playing for Inter in last season's European Cup, dedicator of his admittedly spectacular headed goal against the Czechs in the group stage in Germany to the suspended Daniele De Rossi, who had been sent off for his disgraceful assault on the USA's Brian McBride in the previous match.

The Italian preference for hard men, which goes right back to Vittorio Pozzo and his use of ruthless Argentinian Luisito Monti and includes Enzo Bearzot and his preference for the abrasive Claudio Gentile, still seems extant. Far from sending De Rossi home, current coach Marcello Lippi actually used him in the Final, and the midfielder scored in the penalty shoot-out to help Italy win.

'Chirac eulogised Zidane, making no mention of the fact he had got himself sent off with his abysmal retaliation'

IT WAS *World Soccer* that recently deplored a repugnant, racist outburst against black players by Ukraine manager Oleh Blokhin. Yet when his side met Italy in the World Cup and the captains of each team read out the anodyne pledges to Kick Out Racism, who was standing, uncriticised and unpunished at the end of the Ukrainian line but Blokhin.

And Spain's manager, Luis Aragones, who not long ago outrageously referred to Thierry Henry as "that black shit", was also among the managers present in Germany, though at least he had been fined by his federation, albeit lightly.

If FIFA were serious about its facile campaign, it would come down like a ton of bricks on offenders such as Blokhin, and start closing stadia in those countries, not least Spain and its Bernabeu bigots, guilty of racist abuse.

But of course it is so much easier to deal in slogans and meaningless public declarations – giving free rein to the Blokhins of the game.

A PLAGUE on both their houses, one is tempted to say, in the current deadlock between the Minister of Sport, Richard Caborn, one more in the long line of dull mediocrities, and the equally dim representatives of the Football Association.

A loose-mouthed spokesman for Caborn has announced that his office is trying to drag the FA from the 19th century into the 20th, let alone the 21st. People who live in glasshouses...

Repugnant outburst...Blokhin

'Surely it is time for an inquiry to find out exactly why Eriksson was rewarded with an improved contract'

The bone of contention is the implementation of the Burns Report, Lord Burns' review of the FA that included proposals for its restructuring. But Caborn should not push too hard or he will have FIFA on his trail. The world body is eager to punish associations who are leaned on by their governments.

Meanwhile, the FA continues to fill one with despair. Surely it is "guilty men" time, for an inquiry to find out exactly why the ludicrous Sven Goran Eriksson was rewarded with a vastly improved contract after surreptitiously dealing with Chelsea, and why that contract, insanely, lasts till 2008; unless in the meantime he should get another job. Deadbeats, buffoons and what you might politely term activists were responsible for this grisly state of affairs, but who, exactly, were they and how can they possibly explain themselves?

IT SURPRISED me that Liverpool should have been prepared to pay as much as £9million for Feyenoord and Holland striker Dirk Kuijt. When I saw him play so ineffectively in Germany against Portugal, in that ill-augured match, I kept wondering why Marco Van Basten did not bring on Ruud Van Nistelrooy. Dutch colleagues seated by me thought that Kuijt was an effective club centre-forward who hadn't made the leap to the international game. So I suppose it may be that Liverpool, at club level, would get what they hoped out of him.

NEWCASTLE, held to a 1-1 draw at home by Norway's Lillestrom in the abysmal InterToto Cup, found their season in peril before it had properly begun. I had every sympathy with them and their players, dragged out of summer holidays to meet a team still in their full season, though they did win the second leg, 3-0, to reach the UEFA Cup. But then, English teams that commit themselves to this apology for a competition have only themselves to blame. UEFA should never have made it a conduit to their cup at all. The players of Europe's leading clubs play far too much football already.

Notes & quotes

"The fourth official was my guardian angel."

World Cup Final referee Horacio Elizondo pays tribute to Spain's Luis Medina Cantalejo, who saw Zinedine Zidane's butt on Marco Materazzi.

"Zidane did wrong and he knows it. But Materazzi is a sickness. His sort should not exist."

France defender Lilian Thuram comes down hard on the Italy defender.

"Klinsmann's decision shows that he doesn't like football enough."

Eintracht Frankfurt board chief Heribert Bruchhagen refuses to run with the pack after the Germany coach announces his departure.

Happy memories...Deschamps

"We've always had great players at Juve. We never won by accident."

New coach Didier Deschamps takes a fond look back at his playing days in Turin.

"Aulas does just what he wants. He's a gang leader."

Ex-Marseille chief Bernard Tapie on the attempts of Lyon president Jean-Michel Aulas to lure star midfielder Franck Ribery away from the Velodrome.

● 22/07/06

Hello, goodbye...Dennis Bergkamp waves to the crowd after his testimonial match at Arsenal's new stadium

● 22/07/06

Blocked off...the Chicago Fire wall does its job in stopping a DC United free-kick during an MLS game

● 22/07/06

Up and away...Newcastle's Titus Bramble misses a scoring opportunity during the InterToto Cup win away to Lillestrom

● 24/07/06

Bossing it...Brazilian federation president Ricardo Teixeira unveils former skipper Dunga as national team coach

● 25/07/06

Real deal...ex-Juve defender Fabio Cannavaro is presented to the media by Alfredo Di Stefano and Madrid president Ramon Calderon

far&wide

Road to recovery...Pessotto

Pessotto 'improving'

DOCTORS TREATING Juventus team manager Gianluca Pessotto, who fell from a window in June in an apparent suicide attempt, say he is now out of danger and can breath unaided.

"The patient's condition is gradually improving," the doctors said in a statement, but added that the former Juve and Italy defender would remain in intensive care for the time being.

The 35-year-old fell 15 metres from a window at club headquarters in Turin on June 27. He was found clutching rosary beads.

Police have said they are viewing the incident as a suicide attempt. One report said Pessotto was being treated for depression.

Bangoura blinded in one eye

Doctors at a Beijing hospital were unable to save the sight in the right eye of Guinea international Ousmane Bangoura after he was kicked during a Chinese League match. The 26-year-old Shenyang Ginde midfielder suffered a ruptured eyeball in the clash with Lu Gang of Qingdao Zhongneng.

Marco avoids holiday hell

Marco Materazzi's appearance before a FIFA disciplinary panel to discuss Zinedine Zidane's attack on him in the World Cup Final was brought forward so that he could go on a pre-booked holiday to the Maldives. But rumours that Zidane was also planning a break there understandably appeared to cause some consternation.

"Marco will fly to the Maldives on Sunday," said the Italy defender's agent Claudio Vigorelli after the FIFA hearing. "Do you know where Zidane is spending his holidays? It's just that the Maldives are small islands."

However, Materazzi could rest easy on the beach. Zizou went to Formentera, one of the Balearic Islands, instead.

Osim's way with words

Ivica Osim came up with two memorable analogies in his first press conference since becoming Japan coach, suggesting he could well be good for a quote in the months to come. Taking the job was, he said, "like getting married. At the start the honeymoon is sweet, but I'm not sure how long it's going to last."

Then the former Yugoslavia boss turned his attention to the squad, saying: "If the Japan team were a car you could say it has temporarily stalled. We all need to get behind it and give it a push-start."

Who needs Mourinho?

Phew! He's in Formentera...Zidane takes a break

All white on the night...Tweedy and Cole

Hot Cole

ASHLEY COLE was away on honeymoon last month and missed much of the furore about his forthcoming book, in which he is expected to be highly critical of Arsenal for their role in the tapping-up saga with Chelsea.

Cole has certainly found it hard to stay out of the limelight recently, as this picture with new wife Cheryl Tweedy, promoting the national lottery, testifies.

Hamburg's a matter of life and death

The strangest club-in-the-community development of the month has to be that dreamed up by Hamburg, who are creating a cemetery next to their stadium.

"For a large number of people, it's important to be close to the club after their lives are over," said director Christian Reichert. "We don't know of any other place in Germany where this is done, so it's a unique opportunity for our fans.

"It won't be full of colourful headstones and we don't want to turn the graveyard into a bazaar for fan merchandise, but it will be a place for true fans to find their final resting place."

Seol suffers baked bean nightmare

South Korea striker Seol Ki-hyeon has cited baked beans as one of the contributory factors for his departure from second tier Wolverhampton to Premier League new boys Reading.

The 27-year-old joined Wolves, his first English club, in 2004 and admits he found it hard to settle: "Everything was totally different. The language, the culture and especially the weather. And then there was the food here. Fish and chips was strange – and baked beans. The boys at Wolverhampton always had beans with their toast, and I had never seen them before, not even in Europe."

The move to Reading means Seol will be much closer to the south London area of New Malden, which has a large Korean community. "You can get Korean things there but it was difficult to get to from Wolverhampton," the striker says. "It took three and a half hours, so I could go there only once a month. It will take me just 40 minutes from Reading, so I can go every day. You don't need to speak English there. It is just like being in Korea."

Plaudits...Mourinho

● FRANCO CARRARO... the disgraced former head of the Italian football federation had his four year six month ban from all football activities commuted on appeal to a £54,000 fine.

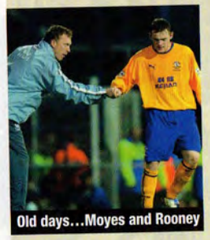
● JOSE MOURINHO... the Chelsea manager won plaudits for refusing to consider bids for Juventus players. "I don't laugh at the situation," he said.

● ALEXANDRE GAIDAMAK... the controversial Russian businessman completed his takeover of Portsmouth after buying Milan Mandaric's 50 per cent share for a reported £32million.

● DUNGA... Brazil's 1994 World Cup-winning captain was appointed national coach in succession to Carlos Alberto Parreira, despite having no formal coaching experience.

GOOD MONTH FOR...

BAD MONTH FOR...



Old days...Moyes and Rooney

● DAVID MOYES... Wayne Rooney claimed in his autobiography that the Everton manager had forced him out of the club two seasons ago.

● FERENCVAROS... Hungary's most famous club were relegated to the Second Division after failing to get a top-flight licence for the new season.

● BARCELONA... the European champions' entire board of directors was forced to resign and seek re-election. This followed a judge's decision to uphold a complaint from three club members that president Joan Laporta had overrun his four-year term in office.

● PATRICK KLUIVERT... the Dutch striker, a free agent after being released by Valencia, was rejected by Hamburg, who questioned his fitness.

Juve's world turned upside down

The Turin club's relegation for their part in Italy's match-fixing scandal has sparked a player exodus; other guilty parties got off more lightly. Keir Radnedge reports

DECISION DAY WAS originally supposed to have been Sunday, July 9. But no one ever expected that date to hold. The day of the World Cup Final?

Of course, when special prosecutor Stefano Palazzi planned the legal culmination of the "Clean Feet" or "Moggiopoli" inquiry, few people had expected Italy to reach the Final. After all, it was not as if someone from the Italian federation had been manipulating the refereeing appointments in Germany.

There was no surprise, however, when Italian football's special tribunal in Rome did announce its verdicts, on Friday, July 14. With the exception of five of the referees and one of the referee administrators, all the implicated parties – clubs and officials – were found guilty of match manipulation in the 2004-05 season and/or complicity in a cover-up.

The real focus of interest lay not in the verdicts but in the punishments, with predatory managers of clubs in Europe's biggest leagues on standby to move into the transfer market if relegation ensued.

It did, initially at least, for three of the clubs involved. But the tribunal's guilty verdicts and punishments were never going to be the end of the matter, headline-making though they were.

On July 25, an appeal court, mindful of the deadline for European club competition registration, which fell that same day, revoked or reduced the severity of a number of the punishments. To the watching world, this watering down was all too predictable.

Champions Juventus, originally relegated to Serie B and condemned to start the season with minus 30 points, will remain in Serie B, though with only a 17-point deduction. But the decision to demote Lazio and Fiorentina to Serie B was overturned. And last season's runners-up, Milan, who had originally escaped relegation only to be prevented from entering next season's Champions League or even the UEFA Cup, found their path to the former event re-opened.

Manipulator...Moggi

'It's not a victory but it's much better'
Milan's lawyer Leandro Cantamessa reacts to the club's reduced sentence

The original punishments had left not only the four clubs swinging in the wind of guilt but also disgraced former federation president Franco Carraro and the manipulator-in-chief, Luciano Moggi, until recently Juve's director general.

Although Moggi's five-year ban from all football activities was upheld by the appeal court, Carraro's suspension of four years six months was commuted to a fine.

Juventus, because of Moggi's activities, had always been at the heart of the inquiry and in that position were always likely to be the most severely punished club if found guilty. The July 14 punishments had appeared to doom Juve to at least two seasons in Serie B, but the reduction in the points penalty now gives them a fighting chance of a return to Serie A next summer. However, the club will have to meet that challenge without a host of key players (see graphic).

New Juventus president Giovanni Cobolli Gigli, who has been putting together a new board of directors to replace the last, discredited bunch, was far from happy despite the point penalty reduction. "We simply cannot accept this sentence," he said. "I find the diversity of verdict that separates Juventus from the other clubs totally unfair. For this reason we have decided to continue our appeals in every possible forum."

Juventus remain stripped of their last two championship titles – 2004-05 and 2005-06 – one of the other punishments from the original judgement.

Milan on the rise

In the July 14 rulings, Milan had had 44 points deducted from their total for 2005-06, putting them out of the European places. The appeal court reduced this to 30 points, thus allowing Milan to finish third and take a place in the Champions League third qualifying round this August.

"For a club that asked for a complete annulment [of the original sentence] it cannot be considered a victory," said Milan's lawyer Leandro Cantamessa. "But bearing in mind the tribunal's sentence, which was like being in front of a firing squad, this is much better."

Milan also had a 15-point deduction for the coming season reduced to eight points.

Fiorentina, who finished fourth in Serie A last season, had faced the prospect of going back down into Serie B having only recently fought their way up to the top flight from demotion to Serie C2 after bankruptcy. Now, they will begin the new season in Serie A, though with an increased points deduction of 19 from the original 12. Lazio, who finished sixth in Serie A last term, were also reprieved from the drop but also had their points penalty for 2006-07 increased, from seven to 11.

The two clubs had been placed joint bottom of the 2005-06 Serie A table in the July 14 rulings; that was reduced to a 30-point deduction on appeal, but they are still out of the European placings. Fiorentina owner Diego Della Valle announced his intention to win back his club's place in the Champions League by taking the fight to the civil courts. "We haven't done anything and we will go down every avenue to clear our name," he said. "We will go to all the courts possible to remove any shadow of guilt and get back what they have taken from us." It is a delicate point of law whether Della Valle can lead such an action now he is under personal suspension after being found guilty by the tribunal.

Tarnished triumph...Juve have been stripped of last season's title

There was also discontent at Lazio. "I'm not satisfied at all. Lazio have not broken any rule," said president Claudio Lotito. "The fact that we will not be taking part in the UEFA Cup is not in line with the truth."

Moggi, who devised and managed the most sophisticated referee-bending system yet uncovered in top soccer, may still have his full sentence to serve, but that is considered lenient by most observers. In any other mainstream football country he would have been suspended *sine die*.

'All the results on the pitch were obtained in a proper manner. No match was fixed, no referee was bent'
Luciano Moggi

Bitter words

"I'm very bitter," Moggi said, "not for me but for the clubs and for their supporters. All the results out on the pitch were obtained in a proper manner. No match was fixed, no referee was bent."

Carraro, the man who for three months sat on the reports of the phone-taps that led to the proceedings and who might still be sitting on them had they not been leaked to the media, now just has a fine of £54,000 to pay. But the fact he has been punished at all may well affect his now laughable status as chairman of FIFA's internal audit commission. However, he is likely to remain scandalously fireproof as far as his membership of the International Olympic Committee is concerned.

The structural effect of all the points deductions and Juve's

Juventus players up for grabs

Staying in Turin

Alessandro Del Piero
Forward. Contracted until 2008 and says he does not want to leave.

Pavel Nedved
Midfielder. Has pledged to stay and see out the remaining two years of his contract.

MOGGIOPOLI: THE PUNISHMENTS

Franco Carraro

CLUBS

● Juventus
Relegated to Serie B, originally with a 30-point penalty for 2006-07 season, reduced to 17 points on appeal; stripped of both the 2004-05 and 2005-06 league titles; dropped to foot of Serie A for 2004-05; not placed at all for 2005-06.

● Milan
Originally docked 44 points for 2005-06 season, thus dropping them out of the European places, but reduced to 30 points on appeal – that meant they finished third, allowing them to enter the Champions League qualifiers; originally given a 15-point penalty for 2006-07 season, but reduced to eight points on appeal.

● Fiorentina
Originally relegated to Serie B with a 12-point penalty for 2006-07 season, but reinstated in Serie A on appeal, though with a 19-point deduction.

● Lazio
Originally relegated to Serie B with a seven-point penalty for 2006-07 season, but reinstated in Serie A on appeal, though with an 11-point deduction.

Andrea and Diego Della Valle

INDIVIDUALS

● Italian federation
Franco Carraro (former president): originally suspended from all football activities for four years six months, but decision was overturned on appeal. Fined £54,000 instead.

Innocenzo Mazzini (former vice-president): suspended from all football activities for five years.

● Juventus
Luciano Moggi (former director general): suspended from all football activities for five years and recommended for dismissal from membership of the federation.

Antonio Giraudo (former chief executive): suspended from all football activities for five years and recommended for dismissal from membership of the federation.

● Milan
Adriano Galliani (chief executive): originally suspended from all football activities for one year; reduced to nine months on appeal.

Leonardo Meani (former refereeing supervisor): originally suspended from all football activities for three years six months; reduced to two years six months on appeal.

● Fiorentina
Diego Della Valle (honorary president): originally suspended from all football activities for four years; reduced to three years nine months on appeal.

Andrea Della Valle (executive president): originally suspended from all football activities for three years six months; reduced to three years on appeal.

Sandro Mencucci (chief executive): originally suspended from all football activities for three years six months; reduced to two years six months on appeal.

● Lazio
Claudio Lotito (president): originally suspended from all football activities for three years six months; reduced to two years six months on appeal.

● Referee administrators
Pierluigi Pairetto (former match designator): originally suspended from all football activities for two years six months; increased to three years six months by the appeal court.

Tullio Lanese (refereeing president): suspended from all football activities for two years six months.

Gennaro Mazzei (deputy commissioner): originally suspended from all football activities for one year; reduced to six months on appeal.

Pietro Ingargiola (assessor): cautioned.

Massimo De Santis

● Referees
Massimo De Santis: originally suspended from all football activities for four years six months; reduced to four years on appeal.

Gianluca Paparesta: suspended from all football activities for three months.

● Referees' assistants
Claudio Puglisi: originally suspended from all football activities for one year; reduced to three months on appeal.

Fabrizio Babini: originally suspended from all football activities for one year; reduced to three months on appeal.

● *Referees Paolo Bertini, Domenico Messina, Gianluca Rocchi, Pasquale Rodomonti and Paolo Tagliavento were all acquitted.*

Referee Paolo Dondarini was acquitted on appeal having originally been suspended from all football activities for three years six months.

There was no verdict in the case of former refereeing match designator Paolo Bergamo.

Decision day...tribunal president Cesare Ruperto (second from left) reads out the sentences on July 14

relegation was to lift Internazionale and Roma, who finished third and fifth respectively in Serie A last season, up to first and second and into the Champions League group stage (Inter have also been named champions for 2005-06 by the federation); Chievo, placed seventh last term, move up to fourth to enter the Champions League third qualifying round with Milan; and Palermo, Livorno and Parma were propelled into the UEFA Cup by virtue of league position (Inter had beaten Roma in the Cup Final and thus no cup entrant was available).

To be continued
It is highly unlikely that this is the end of the whole affair. Sporting fraud is a criminal offence in Italy and thus the punished clubs may not have heard the end of the process. Also, other clubs risk finding themselves dragged into the inquiry. Reggina were "fingered" after the first wave of guilty verdicts had been delivered. Their president, Pasquale Foti, a leisurewear millionaire, is under investigation by the Naples prosecutors' office for allegedly trying to influence (now former) refereeing match designator Paolo Bergamo.

The next step for Juventus, Fiorentina and Lazio is to contest the verdicts outside the sports system in the Lazio regional civil court. But such action would risk the wrath of FIFA, which would be likely to threaten to ban not only the clubs – innocent and guilty – but the entire Italian game, including the newly crowned World Cup winners, from international competition.

As one door shuts, another door shuts...and, for the sake of the credibility of football, so it should. But the depth and breadth of the scam indicates that many, many more people – administrators, match officials and players – knew exactly what was going on.

Whether *calcio's* door can remain barred to the putative Moggis of the Italian sporting world remains open to question.

'The next step for Juventus, Fiorentina and Lazio is to contest the verdicts in the Lazio regional civil court'

Signed, sealed and delivered

Gavin Hamilton rounds up the biggest deals of the summer so far

AS THE REST of Europe's leading clubs rubbed their hands in glee at the thought of the summer sale at Juventus, Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho was adamant that his club would not join in.

"The market was waiting for the problems in Italian football," he said. "Chelsea wasn't and I'm happy with that because it shows we are working at the right time and also that it shows respect for difficult times.

"I would be very sad to bring to Chelsea players from a club in difficult circumstances. When I look at a big, big club like Juventus with players wanting to go, I don't laugh at the situation."

Chelsea buy early

Mourinho, of course, could afford to be so generous. Chelsea had done their main shopping before the World Cup, bringing in two of Europe's most wanted players, Michael Ballack on a free from Bayern Munich and Andrii Shevchenko (£30.8million) from Milan.

"We started thinking about transfers for the new season before the last one ended," Mourinho said. "For example, we contacted Bayern about Ballack last season."

Other clubs were more than happy to take advantage of Juve's situation. First in the queue were Real Madrid, who re-hired their former coach Fabio Capello after he quit the Turin club during the World Cup. Capello has been followed to the Bernabeu by Italy's World Cup-winning captain and key defender Fabio Cannavaro and Brazilian midfielder Emerson, snapped up for a combined fee of £14m.

Madrid's recently appointed sporting director, former Real striker Predrag Mijatovic, has been leading the hunt for new players, and there was interest in another Juve man, Italy defender Gianluca Zambrotta. But it was Barcelona who got him, along with Juve's French defender Lilian Thuram, for a combined fee of £13m.

Thuram's international and Juve team-mate Patrick Vieira was being strongly linked with Internazionale at press time, while keeper Gianluigi Buffon and Swedish forward Zlatan Ibrahimovic have not been short of offers either. So the assertion by new Juventus coach Didier Deschamps that "nobody is going anywhere" is likely to be fully tested in the weeks before the August 31 transfer deadline.

While some big names have departed Juventus, the club were also busy bringing in players for the Serie B campaign. Cristiano Zanetti, out of contract at Inter, joined on a free transfer, while highly rated young Bulgarian forward Valeri Bojinov arrived on a season-long loan from Fiorentina.

Milan and Fiorentina appear likely to avoid the loss of key players after having the severity of their punishments from the match-fixing tribunal reduced on appeal.

Calderon eyes Kaka

Milan's Brazilian midfielder Kaka had been strongly linked with a move to Real Madrid following the victory of Ramon Calderon in the presidential election. The new man had included a pledge to sign Kaka in his manifesto. However, Milan are adamant that the Brazilian will stay in Italy, and the fact they are now back in the Champions League running makes that all the more likely.

Fiorentina, meanwhile, have insisted that Luca Toni, last season's league top scorer, will remain at the club; their relegation reprieve may well mean the player is happy to stay.

Inter, 2005-06 champions by default after Juve were stripped of the title, now appear to have a good chance of winning 2006-07 by right. So far they have concluded deals for Italy full-back Fabio Grosso (a £4m move was agreed with Palermo before the World Cup), Brazilian full-backs Maxwell and Maicon (from Empoli and Monaco respectively) and French midfielder Olivier Dacourt (Roma). If, as the Italian press predict, Vieira and Ibrahimovic also come on board, Inter will have by far the strongest squad in Serie A next season.

Cannavaro and Emerson were the only signings made by Real Madrid as we went to press, but Calderon and Capello have promised more.

Over at Barcelona, Thuram and Zambrotta have been joined by forward Eidur Gudjohnsen from Chelsea. The Icelander replaces Swede Henrik Larsson, who is now back with hometown club Helsingborgs.

Another Chelsea player, Asier Del Horno, has made the switch to La Liga, with Valencia, while Villarreal also looked to a London club, bringing in Frenchman Robert Pires from Arsenal.

Aguero to Atletico

Sergio Aguero, one of Argentina's most exciting youngsters, has joined Atletico Madrid for a reported £10.9m from Independiente. He will link up with Argentina-born Spanish international full-back Mariano Pernia, signed from Getafe.

Aguero had been a reported target for Bayern Munich, another club who like Chelsea insisted they would not be cashing in on Juve's misery. Instead, the German champions went shopping closer to home, signing Lukas Podolski, one of the stars of the hosts' World Cup campaign, from relegated Koln, and Belgian defender Daniel Van Buyten, from Hamburg. Van Buyten's replacement is compatriot Vincent Kompany, long touted as one of Europe's most exciting young defenders, from Anderlecht.

Other intriguing arrivals in the Bundesliga include Swiss striker Alexander Frei, who joins Borussia Dortmund from Rennes, and Brazilian midfielder Diego, Werder Bremen's signing from FC Porto.

In France, there were shades of last summer's transfer saga over Michael Essien at Lyon, with the champions resisting the wishes of Mahamadou Diarra to leave the club.

Media interest...new Barca signing Lilian Thuram is the focus of attention

Most wanted...Andrii Shevchenko gets a feel for Chelsea

'The assertion by new Juventus coach Didier Deschamps that "nobody is going anywhere" is likely to be fully tested in the weeks before the August 31 deadline'

Headed for Madrid...ex-Juve defender Fabio Cannavaro

The midfielder had been one of the players touted as a possible signing by Real Madrid presidential candidate Arturo Baldasano in his failed election campaign.

Meanwhile, Lyon signed Swedish midfielder Kim Kallstrom from Rennes and highly rated midfielder Jeremy Toulalan from Nantes.

Cisse to Marseille

Elsewhere in France, Marseille signed Djibril Cisse on loan from Liverpool even though the striker broke a leg in a World Cup warm-up game. Paris Saint-Germain signed Nantes keeper Mickael Landreau on a free transfer, while Johan Micoud joined Bordeaux from Werder Bremen.

In Holland, Ajax have been boosted by the signing of defender Jaap Stam from Milan and Danish striker Kenneth Perez from AZ. Champions PSV had made no major buys at press time, while Feyenoord were waiting on the likely sale of Dirk Kuijt before making any major signings.

Liverpool, the favourites to land Kuijt, were one of England's most active clubs, signing Craig Bellamy from Blackburn, Jermaine Pennant from Birmingham and Brazilian Fabio Aurelio from Valencia.

Nobody, though, could eclipse Chelsea, who, in addition to Shevchenko and Ballack, signed youngsters Salomon Kalou from Feyenoord and Jon Obi Mikel from Manchester United. The latter deal ended a tug-of-war that has dragged on for months. Chelsea say Mikel had always wanted to play for them in preference to United, who claimed to have signed him from Lyn of Oslo.

The settlement fee for the deal was reported to be £12m to United and a further £4m to Lyn.

At press time, Chelsea were also pursuing Arsenal left-back Ashley Cole, the subject of a much-publicised tapping-up case last season.

Cole was reported to have a gentleman's agreement with Arsenal that he could leave for £15m, but the Gunners appeared to be holding out for a fatter fee.

If Cole does leave Arsenal, there will be no Englishmen among the first-team regulars at Ashburton Grove, the Gunners' new ground. His compatriot Sol Campbell was released from his contract earlier this summer and was still looking for a club as we went to press.

Brazilian to Bernabeu...Emerson joins Real Madrid from Juventus

In at Spurs...Dimitar Berbatov

DONE DEALS

Andrii Shevchenko	Milan to Chelsea	£30.8m
Jon Obi Mikel	Manchester United to Chelsea	£16m
Fabio Cannavaro & Emerson	Juventus to Real Madrid	£14m
Gianluca Zambrotta & Lilian Thuram	Juventus to Barcelona	£13m
Sergio Aguero	Independiente to Atletico Madrid	£10.9m
Dimitar Berbatov	Bayer Leverkusen to Tottenham	£10.9m
Eidur Gudjohnsen	Chelsea to Barcelona	£8.2m
Daniel Van Buyten	Hamburg to Bayern Munich	£6.8m
Vincent Kompany	Anderlecht to Hamburg	£5.5m
Adrian Mutu	Juventus to Fiorentina	£5m
Fabio Grosso	Palermo to Internazionale	£5m
Tomas Rosicky	Borussia Dortmund to Arsenal	£5m
Kim Kallstrom	Rennes to Lyon	£4.8m
Jeremy Toulalan	Nantes to Lyon	£4.75m
Diego	FC Porto to Werder Bremen	£4m
Alexander Frei	Rennes to Borussia Dortmund	£2.7m
Michael Ballack	Bayern Munich to Chelsea	free
Jaap Stam	Milan to Ajax	free
Robert Pires	Arsenal to Villarreal	free

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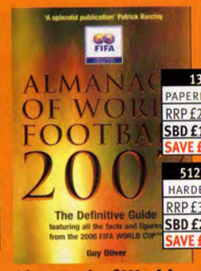

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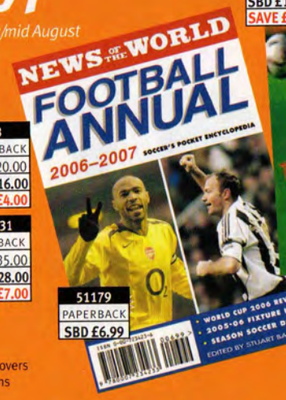

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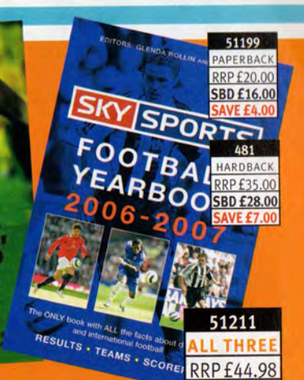

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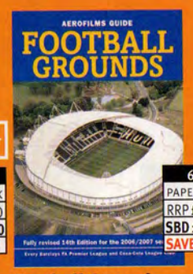

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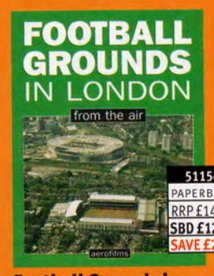

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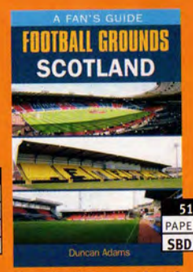

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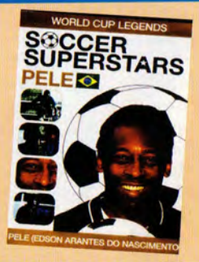

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'We got better with every match'

The captain gives his verdict on Germany's performance this summer – and looks ahead to his new challenge at Chelsea. Interview by Keir Radnedge

● HOW DOES IT FEEL to have reached "only" the semi-finals of the World Cup?

We played extremely well throughout the entire tournament, and missing out just one match short of the Final was a huge blow. I was confident then that Italy would win the Final, and the fact they did just went to prove how close we had been ourselves. If we had played badly against the Italians or if they had been a class better than us it might have been less painful. You can accept it. But we had got better with every match. Then they caught us at the worst possible time. Scoring one minute from the end of a game doesn't give you the time to respond. It was a very emotional defeat. Unfortunately, that's sport, that's football.

● Do you see that now as having been your last chance personally to win the World Cup?

It crossed my mind, of course. I am 29, almost 30. Many of the other players are still only 20 or 21 and, since this was their first big tournament, they saw everything with different eyes. They could come off the pitch thinking they had another two or three World Cups in their career. But I missed the Final in 2002 through suspension and now I had missed out again. By the time of the next World Cup in South Africa I will be almost 34.

● You were in tears after the defeat by Italy. Have you had any reaction to that?

I received a lot of text messages from people sympathising. That was very thoughtful and understanding, though no consolation. We had wanted desperately to win the World Cup and we were coming away empty-handed.

● Have you considered retiring from the national team?

No, I will play on and then see what happens, how I feel two years ahead of the next World Cup. Look at Zinedine Zidane; he had retired from the French national team after the last European Championship but then he changed his mind, as did Thuram and Makelele, and they all finished up not only helping France qualify but actually playing in another World Cup Final.

● So you might quit after the next European finals in 2008 in Austria and Switzerland?

I'll see. I am not going to decide so far in advance one way or the other. I decided immediately after the World Cup I would not make any hurried decisions. My energy levels were right down and I knew I needed to rest and get my strength up again – most importantly, because I have a big new challenge ahead of me at Chelsea.

● Did you have any contact with your new boss, Jose Mourinho, during the finals?

Yes, before the games he sent me a text message wishing me and us good luck, and then sent another message of congratulations after we had won. After the defeat by Italy he told me we could be proud of the way we had played. That was very encouraging, looking ahead to the new season in a new country. I will go there with renewed motivation to deal with the challenges. It won't be easy but I think it will be good for me both as a footballer and as a person.

● How would you compare your two World Cups?

This one was much more important. In 2002 I was a younger player and not so much was expected of me. I scored some important goals but I was not particularly important in the team and in terms of the tactical strategy as I was this time around as captain. The reactions were different as well. In 2002 people noticed I had scored a few goals but said I was not a playmaker. This time it has been very satisfying to hear comments that I had played a super World Cup and put my ability to the service of the team. No one asked why I wasn't scoring goals. Obviously, you can't do both. It was different for Zidane, he had two defensive midfielders covering him. The same for Totti. So I didn't play the same game this time around.

● Is scoring goals not so important for you any more?

I can play as an attacking midfielder and enjoy the sensation of scoring. But to play that sort of game in the World Cup finals would have been a big risk, especially against European teams who know us very well. I had the option to play each game as was appropriate. But it was obvious from the opening match against Costa Rica, which I missed, that we needed some defensive balance in midfield.

> 'Jose Mourinho told me we could be proud of the way we had played. That was very encouraging, looking ahead to the new season in a new country'

● How do you think this World Cup will be remembered in Germany?

Well, I have to be careful here. I am a footballer not a social historian. But I hope that, maybe in a year's time, when people look back they will remember this World Cup for the unity and team spirit we all shared. That would be some consolation for not having won it.

Bashers bashed

Paddy Agnew, kicking off our 24-page analysis of the World Cup, reports on how the critics of the Italian game were confounded by the *Azzurri's* triumph in Berlin

THIS HAS BEEN a bad summer for Italy-bashers. Just when they stood on the brink of their greatest ever "I told you so" success relative to the perfidious iniquities of Italian football, along came the *Azzurri* to win the World Cup.

The summer of 2006 will long be remembered as a helter-skelter ride of contrasting emotions for Italian football. At the very moment when the squalid revelations of the "Moggiopoli" match-fixing scandal suggested that the Italian game was corrupt, almost beyond redemption, then it was that over the hill rode our heroes to save national honour.

There is a temptation among some observers to try to fuse the two issues – World Cup success and corruption scandal. Yet it was the redoubtable Gennaro Gattuso who put things into context at a news conference in the Italian camp in Duisburg four days before the Final. Asked if he felt an Italian triumph against France should lead to an "amnesty" for those involved in the corruption scandal, the midfielder said: "Even if we win on Sunday, there should be no question of an amnesty…Whoever has done wrong should pay for it."

In an ideal world, Gattuso's words would be the foundation stone on which Italian football rebuilds, allowing it to step boldly forward in the wake of the huge feelgood emotion engendered by that impressive success in Germany. In other words, Italian football can now look the world in the eye, confident about the supreme technical qualities of its game but not frightened to admit its serious internal problems. Frankly, these go far beyond Moggiopoli and touch on issues such as declining attendances, racist and violent fan behaviour, financial meltdown and the increasingly undemocratic nature of the Italian game's administration.

This summer, just when the guillotine was about to fall on Italian football, it wriggled its way off the chopping block. In winning a fourth World Cup – only Brazil have done better – Italy confirmed their status as one of the genuine superpowers of the modern game.

In the past 24 years, the *Azzurri* have twice won the World Cup, once been beaten finalists and also narrowly lost the Euro 2000 Final. What would the English and Spanish, the chief Italy-bashers, not give for a record like that?

English football, certainly at club level, is undoubtedly better administered, better packaged and much wealthier than its Italian counterparts, but it is hard to deny that Italy's peculiarly football-oriented society still produces a better version of the key element in the game – the footballers themselves.

Even allowing for all the blatant shortcomings of Sven Goran Eriksson's squad choices and coaching, can any England supporter put their hand on their heart and swear that Paul Robinson, Rio Ferdinand, Frank Lampard and Gary Neville are as talented as their Italian counterparts Gigi Buffon, Fabio Cannavaro, Andrea Pirlo and Gianluca

'There's no question …whoever has done wrong should pay for it'

Gennaro Gattuso has an uncompromising view of the Italy scandal

Job done…the Italian squad celebrate as captain Fabio Cannavaro hoists the World Cup

Zambrotta? If they can, then they would be advised to see an optician urgently because the evidence of Germany 2006 would suggest otherwise.

Curiously, it is at least arguable that Italy's success in Germany owes much to the current difficulties of the domestic game. In the days before the Final, various players and, above all, coach Marcello Lippi acknowledged that the Moggiopoli scandal had worked wonders in bringing the side together, giving them a "we'll show you" siege mentality.

Lippi admitted that the impact of the scandal on his side's World Cup preparations was immense. Forced to answer questions every day about endemic corruption in Italian football rather than about the tournament to come, the players finally rebelled, tired of all being tarred with the same brush as "cheats".

Even when the finals had begun, the combination of Italy-bashers and the scandal continued to render Lippi's pre-match pep talks unnecessary. There was a memorable moment after the last-gasp, second round win over Australia when defender Alessandro Nesta met the world's media. Leaning forward and cupping his hand around his ear, Nesta looked incredulously at his interlocutor and said: "Sorry, what did you say? I can't hear you. Did you say parasites? Italians are all parasites?"

Nesta had probably expected questions about Italy's next game, the quarter-final clash with Ukraine, or about their dodgy penalty against Australia, yet instead he was asked about parasites (a term used by German news magazine *Der Spiegel*), the corruption scandal and that week's suicide attempt by ex-Italy defender Gianluca Pessotto.

As the press conference went on, Nesta became at turns bewildered, then annoyed, then indignant and finally relieved when the questions reverted back to football on the field.

Sense of outrage

That controversial win against Australia had the Italy-bashers out in full cry. Spanish daily *El País* spoke of how Italy "climbed back into the caves only to come out at the last moment". French sports daily *L'Equipe* wrote about an "Italian-style win" based on defensive tactics. With stunning originality, the *New York Post* called Italy's win "the Italian job". Elsewhere, the word *"catenaccio"* flashed across hundreds of sports desk computer screens.

With the football federation's Moggiopoli hearing down in Rome functioning as a not-so-melodic counterpoint to the team's progress in Germany, one could almost touch the sense of outrage among many non-Italian commentators. Somehow, they felt, it is not right that this besmirched lot keep on winning.

During that same news conference, Nesta hinted at the growing player irritation when answering a question from an Argentinian journalist. He said: "Oh yeah, so we've got problems in Italy? So, tell me, is everything perfect in your country? No? Well then, you mind your own business and I'll mind mine."

Asked for the umpteenth time about the impact of the corruption scandal on Italy's campaign, Nesta met the question head on. "Look, we'll deal with that when the World Cup is over," he said. "It is a very important matter but right now we have something even more important on our hands, playing in this World Cup."

Another question was: What do you have to say to those critics who accuse you of playing dull old defensive football?

"Look, as far as I'm concerned, it's fashionable to criticise us for being defensive but it is simply not the case. We've played attacking football when possible but it hasn't always been possible…But I'm proud of the way we've played so far. One good thing about all this criticism is it means other teams fear us." Perhaps they did. Certainly, they should have done.

Hear no evil…Nesta is bemused by the media's line of questioning after the Australia game

Message received…Totti listens in as Lippi makes a point during training

Many ingredients go into winning a World Cup. Luck is not the least of them, and Italy undoubtedly had the rub of the green. Above all, the draw was favourable. Lippi cheerfully admitted that on the eve of his side's final group game, against the Czech Republic in Hamburg, he showed his players the competition calendar. Beat the Czechs, he said, and we have an *autostrada* all the way to the semi-finals, with just Australia or Croatia and then either Switzerland or Ukraine to beat to get there. "I told my players we would be idiots to let a chance like that slip away," added the coach.

Several key decisions went Italy's way, too – the sending off of Czech midfielder Jan Polak, that penalty against Australia, the blunder by Ukraine keeper Olexander Shovkovskyi for Zambrotta's opening goal in the 3-0 win, and, of course, the dismissal of Zinedine Zidane during extra-time in the Final, at a moment when France were clearly the better team. Tournament winners need more than luck, however. Above all, they need a good coach, and in Lippi, Italy had about as good a coach as there is in world football. Two statistics underline just what a good job he did.

First, Italy's 12 goals in Germany were scored by 10 players – Pirlo, Vincenzo Iaquinta, Alberto Gilardino, Marco Materazzi, Filippo Inzaghi, Francesco Totti, Zambrotta, Luca Toni, Fabio Grosso and Alessandro Del Piero. Second, Italy used every outfield player in the squad at some stage.

Ever since taking over from Giovanni Trapattoni in July 2004, Lippi had based his preparations on the need to build up a "club mentality" among the players, the willingness to work and play for one another. He was more than successful in that aim.

Even with regard to Totti, his one pre-World Cup player fixation, Lippi showed himself to be flexible. After persevering with the Roma man during the group stage despite dismal performances, the coach dropped him against Australia. But Totti was used as a substitute in that game, and so was available to convert the penalty. Likewise, after sticking with Totti for the full 120 minutes of the titanic semi-final against Germany, Lippi substituted him during the Final when it was clear he was making little or no contribution to the cause.

The coach also deserves credit for playing a less cautious, less old-fashioned defensive game than Trapattoni. With basically the same squad of players, Lippi succeeded spectacularly where his predecessor had failed miserably. Only rarely – when down to 10 men against Australia and when outplayed by France in the Final – did Italy revert to a defensive game. Otherwise, they went out there and put their imprint on the match.

'We all feel bad about Pessotto but we won't let it influence our game. We have a job to do'

Alessandro Nesta makes Italy's priorities clear after the second round win against Australia

Lippi's decision to resign immediately after the World Cup came as no surprise. Having won it, what does a coach do next? Win it again? Better to get out on top, thought Lippi. Secondly, like the players, he had been annoyed by the Moggiopoli scandal, in particular by allegations that in order to facilitate the GEA player agency in which his son Davide worked, he had agreed to call up certain players for national team duty.

Lippi and the World Cup win will be hard acts to follow for successor Roberto Donadoni. Arguably, though, it could be even harder to put Italian football in order in the face of the euphoria that saw a million people greet the team in Rome on their return.

If Italy's win is interpreted in the Gattuso spirit, Italian football will be a winner twice over this summer. If the tendency towards amnesty and sweeping things under the carpet is confirmed, the game will immediately lose some of its hard-won credibility.

One final thought takes us back to that Nesta press conference. Asked about Pessotto's suicide attempt, the defender replied: "We all feel bad about him…but it won't influence our game. We have a job to do to win the World Cup, and, of course, if you win, everybody loves you." Not really, Alessandro, not if it is Italy who win.

Fabulous, Fabio… Grosso wheels away, pursued by Zambrotta and Del Piero, after his extra-time goal against Germany

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Forgiving and forgetting

Zinedine Zidane is still a hero to the French public despite his butt in the Final – and the act and its fallout served to erase the painful memory of defeat

HOWARD JOHNSON in Paris

THERE IS NOW A French website, www.mercizidane.fr, where fans can leave messages thanking the retiring Zinedine Zidane for everything he's done for French football. Unsurprisingly, nowhere does it mention the infamous butt on Marco Materazzi during the World Cup Final that speeded the 34-year-old's departure from the spotlight by 10 minutes after a mammoth 108 games for *Les Bleus*.

But with this shocking and most unsporting of gestures, Zizou appears to have left one final gift for his adoring French public, albeit unwittingly. The furore surrounding Zidane's act of violence and its fallout gave French football fans the chance to enjoy some collective amnesia. Gone in an instant were the memories of the pain of defeat in the Final of football's biggest tournament – and by that cruellest of means, the penalty shoot-out. *Merci,* Zidane, indeed.

The French media did not exactly report on the defeat by Italy as a mere afterthought, but there was no doubt the game was quickly relegated to the realms of mere subtext as the nation debated "The Head of God". What on earth had Materazzi said? Why had France's favourite son reacted the way he did? How on earth did it all end this way, not in glory but in ignominy?

At first, there were no answers from the man himself. Zidane's agent, Alain Migliaccio, stated only that: "Materazzi said something very serious, but Zinedine didn't say what. He normally lets things wash over him. But on Sunday night something exploded inside him."

Some French newspaper editorials the day after the game condemned Zidane for the negative image the butt sent to children watching the Final all over the world. But it quickly became apparent these particular writers had badly misjudged the mood of the nation.

Two days later in my local bar, with some of the bunting from the Sunday night still hanging limply in the fierce heat, there was only a grudging acceptance of how inappropriate the butt had been from such a footballing ambassador. The real focus of attention was on finding out just what exactly Materazzi had said to make Zidane blow his top so spectacularly.

'Sanction the person who's really responsible, who provokes in the first place'

Zidane hits out at red cards only for those who retaliate

The rumours were many and varied. It was racist. It was personal. It was directed at his sister. It was about Zizou's dear old mum.

But whatever it was, it merited a swift response – and a violent response – according to the man in the French street. "If someone had a go at me like that, I don't care who he was, I'd put him on the floor," was typical of the comments I heard. Such sentiments were mirrored in the letters pages of the newspapers. "I loved the headbutt," scribbled one over-excited chap.

Former players were more measured in their responses but were happy to look at events through blue-tinted spectacles. "It's tough on [Zidane] and for all those who love him and know what a great bloke he is," said Bixente Lizarazu, until recently Zizou's France team-mate. "He's given so much to this country that we have to forgive him."

Lizarazu then went on to claim he found it "unbelievable" that a player from the national team of Italy, a country where Zidane played for five years, could insult him like that. This seemed a bit rich, since Lizarazu is a seasoned international.

No holding back

Former France keeper Bernard Lama also reckoned you couldn't hold it against Zidane, "because he's a human being like anyone else, with his feelings and his anger, which sometimes he can't hold back".

Indeed not. This is a player, let us not forget, who has been sent off 14 times in a glittering career. Make no mistake, this was not a one-off response to a situation of extreme pressure. There is history there.

Zidane finally decided to explain himself to the nation the Wednesday after the Final on the Canal Plus TV channel. He refused to say exactly what Materazzi had said, but did claim that the Italian had indeed insulted both his mother and his sister. Zidane then apologised for what he had done, "especially to the children, because I have children of my own, I know what it's like, and I've always told them to avoid that kind of thing".

But he was noticeably prickly when he said he had had "enough of people only sanctioning a reaction. It's time to sanction the person who's really responsible and that's the person who provokes in the first place."

As apologies go, then, it was distinctly half-hearted. Still, nobody in France seemed to mind. One computer-generated gag showed an Italy football shirt with Zidane's face mysteriously burnt into it in the style of the Turin Shroud. And an opinion poll found that more than 60 per cent of the people interviewed had already forgiven Zizou his indiscretion. They had also probably forgotten France's World Cup performances almost entirely in the process. Still, once the dust has settled, maybe the French will remember that there had been a football tournament going on after all – and that *Les Bleus* really did do the nation proud.

Putting the record straight...Zidane goes on TV to explain why he attacked Materazzi

Contribution to the cause

The shame of it all is that with all the brouhaha surrounding Zidane, some France players will leave by the back door when they should be lauded for their contribution to the nation's cause in Germany.

Claude Makelele, a master of destruction in midfield, has retired from international football. Keeper Fabien Barthez, solid and reliable throughout the tournament, has no club and possibly no more professional career. Magnificent defender Lilian Thuram might also be at the end of the international road.

Of those who will be sticking around, let us hope that William Gallas' immense contribution at the heart of the defence will not be forgotten in a hurry.

That Franck Ribery – a wildcard choice for the squad, remember – will play in his home country for at least another season so that the French public can continue to enjoy his special talent.

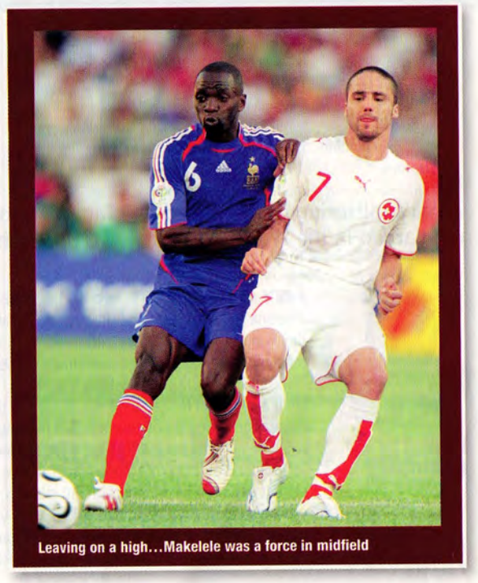
That Patrick Vieira will disentangle himself from the mess that is Juventus and maintain the form that so captivated the French public as the World Cup progressed to the sharp end.

That David Trezeguet will get over missing a penalty in the Final shoot-out and re-establish himself as the world-class poacher we know him to be.

That Thierry Henry will finally go on to become the talisman for France that Zidane has been for so long.

And that, to top it all, coach Raymond Domenech will at long last get the respect he deserves from his previously sceptical countrymen.

The 2006 World Cup Final marked the end of an era. Maybe it was not the way every Frenchman had imagined it, but the age of Zidane is now over. Time to look forward to a new blue future.



Leaving on a high...Makelele was a force in midfield

Walk of shame... Zidane cannot bear to look at the World Cup after being sent off

Off and away

Zizou's glittering career ended in infamy. But the fact he was red-carded in the World Cup Final was not such a surprise

KEIR RADNEDGE

ANY OTHER EXIT would have been preferable. If Zinedine Zidane had missed the decisive penalty in the shoot-out the world game would have thrown down its regrets but still remembered the genius of achievement in 1998 and 2000 with France and in 2002 with Real Madrid.

If Zidane had missed the Final altogether through injury or suspension it would not have affected his reputation. After all, when he quit *Les Bleus* after Euro 2004 no one expected to see him at another World Cup, let alone with a chance of winning it.

But getting sent off for a butt, 10 minutes from the end of extra-time in his very last game? After an 18-year professional career laden not only with physical assaults but with insults of the most personal nature in French, Italian, Spanish and various other languages? Sad. But maybe not as surprising as all that. Before the Final, Zidane had been sent off 13 times in his career, the first in 1993, making it an average of one per year. Yet he had not been dismissed since April 2005. Statistically, the red against Italy was overdue.

His excuses are immaterial. The damage of that image, flashed around the world, has been done. The man voted finest player at the 2006 World Cup will be remembered not for the award, nor a weight of trophies and titles down the years, but for that one assault.

Similarly, Roberto Baggio, the "Divine Ponytail", is remembered more for hitting his penalty over the bar in the Final shoot-out against Brazil in 1994 than for the World and European player awards, the wonderful solo goal against Czechoslovakia at Italia 90 and all his magic for Fiorentina, Juventus, Milan, Internazionale and the *Azzurri*.

The image of Zidane the player that will live on is of a long-striding playmaker, possessed of the most delicate touch and control, fluent in deceiving an entire defence by moving one way as he sends the ball in the opposite direction.

Yet fans and media allowed the artistry to obscure the devil: those sendings off had come at regular intervals during his career, many for retaliation.

Thus even the greatest players, the superstars with whom the Sepp Blatters of this world game are proud to be photographed, may not be quite what they appear in politely-mannered interviews, presentations and picture opportunities.

Up until that moment in Berlin, Zidane was unquestionably the greatest of the four Frenchmen who have been hailed as European Footballer of the Year. Raymond Kopa collected his prize for inspiring *Les Bleus* to third place at the 1958 World Cup; Michel Platini won a hat-trick of awards in the mid-1980s when he rivalled Diego Maradona as the finest footballer on earth; Jean-Pierre Papin was crowned for his avalanche of goals with Marseille.

But great as were Kopa and Platini – Papin was a "mere" shooting star – neither had won the World Cup. Zidane not only collected a winner's medal after the 3-0 victory over Brazil in 1998, he also scored two of the goals. This son of Algerian immigrants had written a fairytale story that could inspire every disadvantaged kid from the back streets.

Second-class citizen

Zidane's parents arrived in Marseille in the wake of the north African independence struggles of the late 1950s. Zizou was thus a second-class citizen in the tough La Castellane quarter. Tough again, the football-mad teenager was overlooked by Marseille, the club he idolised, and he had to scrap his way up the ladder with neighbouring minnows Cannes instead.

At 20 he was snapped up by Bordeaux and inspired them to the UEFA Cup Final in 1996 before Juventus came calling after France fell to the Czech Republic in the Euro 96 semi-finals. Zidane duly won two Italian league titles, one Italian Supercup, one World Club Cup and one European Supercup.

He had an explosive debut in the national team in August 1994, scoring two stunning goals in the last 10 minutes as a substitute to rescue a 2-2 draw against the Czech Republic. His presence in the side was never questioned again.

The one occasion on which Zidane's temperament was called into doubt was in the first round of France 98 when he was sent off for retaliation in a victory over Saudi Arabia. Thus he could only watch in frustration as his team-mates squeezed past Paraguay in the second round by virtue of Laurent Blanc's golden goal. Coach Aime Jacquet consoled him by saying: "Zizou, our team are not just you. But what I do know is that it's you who'll make us win."

Back against his adoptive Italy in the quarter-finals, Zidane converted the first penalty in France's shoot-out success. The semi-final victory over Croatia prepared the stage for his match-winning display against Brazil. Both his goals, unusually, were headers.

Zidane once told me: "I went into that World Cup thinking: 'Oh dear, here we go again.' I had lost three finals in a row: the UEFA Cup Final with Bordeaux against Bayern Munich in 1996, then two Champions League Finals with Juventus – against Borussia Dortmund in 1997 and Real Madrid in 1998. I was starting to think I would never win anything."

Flashpoint...Zidane's butt sends Materazzi flying

Overleaf: Zidane's red cards and life & times

Two years later he was the guiding hand behind France's triumph at Euro 2000, shutting out the angry chaos at the end of extra-time in the semi-final against Portugal to flick home the golden goal penalty.

Zidane's importance to the French cause was laid bare when he missed most of the group stage at the 2002 World Cup because of injury, and the holders crashed out without even scoring a goal.

"Table napkin" transfer

A year earlier Zidane had moved to Real Madrid for a world record £46million after the so-called "table napkin transfer". In Zidane's words: "We were at a UEFA reception in Monte Carlo when the Real Madrid president, Florentino Perez, passed a napkin down to me asking if I wanted to play for them. He wrote it in French and I wrote back in English: 'Yes.' "

The move changed his Champions League luck. In May 2002 he volleyed one of the most masterful winning goals ever seen to secure a 2-1 victory over Bayer Leverkusen in the Final in Glasgow.

He said: "Nine times out of 10 that would have flown into the crowd. I was lucky, I caught it just right but I had to strike it like that because the ball came down from so high. It was unbelievable. I could not sleep that night. I kept watching it on the video."

A few weeks later France flopped in Korea. Two years later they crumbled in the quarter-finals of Euro 2004, and Zidane stepped down to concentrate on his club career and his family. France missed him. They struggled for most of the World Cup qualifying campaign but Zidane's return helped secure their ticket to Germany.

Before the finals, Zizou said he would retire completely at the end of *Les Bleus'* campaign. That meant every game might be his last. He was booked in each of the first two group games, which France could only draw, meaning he had to sit out the third match against Togo, but a 2-0 win kept his career alive.

Zidane was close to his best in the second half against Spain in the second round and throughout the quarter-final against Brazil. Against Portugal, in the semis, he converted the match-winning penalty. In the Final he dollied the outrageous opening penalty goal against Italy. Clearly, a provocation of its own for the *Azzurri* and Marco Materazzi.

After the Final an internet poll run by *L'Equipe* questioned whether Zidane's career would be for ever marred by the manner of his farewell. Only 39 per cent of French fans agreed, with 61 per cent firmly in denial. But we all know what we saw. Sadly.

'Zizou, our team are not just you, but it is you who'll make us win'

Prophetic words from coach Aime Jacquet during France 98

ZIDANE'S RED CARDS

1993

Sep 18: Retaliatory punch in the eye for Marcel Desailly (Marseille 3 Bordeaux 1; French League)

1995

Aug 22: Retaliation against Thorsten Fink (Bordeaux 2 Karlsruhe 2; InterToto Cup Final, 2nd leg)
Oct 27: Tackle from behind on Frederic Mendy (Martigues 3 Bordeaux 1; French League)

1996

Sep 23: Two-footed tackle (Perugia 1 Juventus 2; Italian League)

1997

Jan 5: Confrontation with Enrico Chiesa; sent off on assistant referee's evidence (Parma 1 Juventus 0; Italian League)

1998

June 18: Retaliatory stamp on Fouad Amin (France 4 Saudi Arabia 0; World Cup finals group stage)
Oct 25: Two-footed tackle on Paulo Sousa (Juventus 1 Internazionale 0; Italian League)

1999

Oct 17: Second yellow card for diving (Roma 0 Juventus 1; Italian League)

2000

Sep 26: Late tackle (Juventus 0 Deportivo La Coruna 0; Champions League)
Oct 24: Retaliatory butt on Jochen Kientz off the ball (Juventus 1 Hamburg 3; Champions League)

2004

Feb 11: Retaliatory elbow on Pablo Alfaro; sent off on assistant referee's evidence (Sevilla 1 Real Madrid 0; Spanish Cup semi-final, 2nd leg)
May 1: Second yellow card for tackle from behind on Djalminha (Deportivo La Coruna 2 Real Madrid 0; Spanish League)

2005

Apr 23: Confrontation with Quique Alvarez after a foul on Raul (Real Madrid 2 Villarreal 1; Spanish League)

2006

July 9: Retaliatory butt on Marco Materazzi; sent off on fourth official's evidence (Italy 1 France 1; World Cup Final)

Familiar sight...Zidane goes for butting Kientz of Hamburg in October 2000

Top of the world...Zidane and his team-mates celebrate triumph at France 98

Life and times

- June 23, 1972: born in Marseille
- 1988: Turns professional with Cannes
- 1992: Transfers to Bordeaux
- 1994: Scores twice on his national team debut, a 2-2 draw against the Czech Republic
- 1996: UEFA Cup runner-up with Bordeaux. Transfers to Juventus. Wins World Club Cup
- 1997: Wins Italian League and is a Champions League runner-up
- 1998: World Cup winner with France, scoring twice in the Final, Italian champion again and Champions League runner-up again. Voted French Sportsman of the Year, FIFA World Player of the Year and European Footballer of the Year
- 2000: European Championship winner. Voted FIFA World Player of the Year
- 2001: Transfers to Real Madrid for a world record £46m
- 2002: Wins the Champions League, scoring a sensational winner in the Final, World Club Cup and European Supercup
- 2003: Wins the Spanish League. Voted FIFA World Player of the Year for a record-equalling third time

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8/1 Real Madrid
10/1 Milan
12/1 Inter Milan
14/1 Arsenal, Liverpool, Manchester United
14/1 Lyon
16/1 Bayern Munich, Valencia

8/1 Real Madrid to win the Champions League
The best value may lie with Fabio Capello's Real Madrid. The brilliant coach is set to completely reshape the Bernabeu side's line-up. By February they should be firing on all cylinders, and could well be worth an interest at 8/1.

English Premiership
4/9 Chelsea
5/1 Manchester United
6/1 Arsenal, Liverpool
50/1 Tottenham
200/1 Newcastle

4/9 Chelsea to win the Premiership
Can anyone stop Chelsea? With Shevchenko and Ballack among the summer additions, 4/9 for the Blues taking a third consecutive title looks like a solid addition to any multiple bet.

Serie A 2006-2007
5/6 Inter Milan
13/8 AC Milan (-8)
9/2 Roma
40/1 Palermo
50/1 Sampdoria
66/1 Udinese

5/6 Inter to win the Italian League
With Milan 8 points down at the start of the season, Inter have a golden opportunity to do the double after being awarded last years title.

Spanish Primera Liga
4/7 Barcelona
15/8 Real Madrid
10/1 Valencia
25/1 Atletico Madrid
33/1 Villarreal
66/1 Seville
80/1 Deportivo La Coruna

4/7 Barcelona to win the Spanish Primera Liga
It would be no surprise if the smart money was on Barcelona at 4/7 to be Champions again, while superstar striker Samuel Eto'o is 5/2 favourite to win a second consecutive Pichichi trophy for top goalscorer.

German Bundesliga
4/7 Bayern Munich
9/2 Werder Bremen
5/1 Hamburg
10/1 Schalke

French Ligue 1
1/3 Lyon
10/1 Marseille
12/1 Lille
14/1 Paris St Germain

Dutch Eredivisie
11/10 PSV Eindhoven
7/4 Ajax
6/1 Feyenoord
6/1 AZ

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Fine hosts

Klinsmann's men brought an attacking verve to the finals and sent the German public into ecstasy

NICK BIDWELL in Berlin

LET'S BE HONEST, Germany in many ways fluked their way to runners-up spot at the 2002 World Cup. Apart from keeper Oliver Kahn and midfielder Michael Ballack, they were an ordinary side who benefited from a lot of good fortune.

Germany's wonderful World Cup pedigree – three-times winners and seven appearances in the Final – has to a large extent represented the victory of pragmatism over style. But no one could claim that the German class of 2006 won ugly.

Third place was the least they deserved for their adventurous, wholehearted football, and their bright and breezy approach struck a chord with a joyous nation.

The tactics employed by coach Jurgen Klinsmann were not rocket science. His team played a high-tempo, direct attacking game; they were very compact, leaving little space between defence, midfield and the front two, and they pressed effectively and aggressively when not in possession.

For the most part, there was nothing elaborate about their build-up play. Klinsmann's creative strategy amounted to two simple maxims: get the ball as early as possible to strikers Miroslav Klose and Lukas Podolski, and ensure that wide midfielders Bernd Schneider and Bastian Schweinsteiger, plus attack-minded left-back Philipp Lahm, put plenty of crosses into the box.

In general at the finals, the lone striker and the swift counter-attack were *de rigueur*. So Germany's insistence on retaining two genuine strikers and seizing the initiative from the off was a breath of fresh air.

One might have expected the Germans to be cagey and uncertain after a number of decidedly mediocre performances in warm-up games. Not so. This was a team refreshingly devoid of fear and calculation.

What these finals conclusively proved was that high-price headliners and ad agency stalwarts do not a team maketh. Unity of purpose, a strong tactical identity and *esprit de corps* are vital, and in these categories Germany scored highly. They defended as a unit, they attacked as one.

Look no further for the reasons why a wave of ecstasy swept over Germany in June and early July. It was not simply a case of results going the right way and bandwagon-jumpers scrambling on board for a prolonged party. The public saw a young team growing before their eyes and became immensely proud of the way they forced the issue, scrapped and stuck together.

Mutual admiration society...Klinsmann greets the fans in Berlin after Germany took third place at the World Cup

Critics on the hop

This was very much a World Cup where Germany caught the critics on the hop, and in no other area did they confound more than at the back. In friendlies this season, the defence had at times looked shambolic, singularly lacking in co-ordination and pace. Yet besides right-back Arne Friedrich's poor display in the opening game against Costa Rica – when he appeared unfamiliar with the rudiments of offside – the unit stood up remarkably well, though it has to be added an industrious midfield did a splendid job of shielding them.

Centre-backs Per Mertesacker and Christoph Metzelder were particularly impressive, proving they were much more than "a couple of gangling youths" as one writer rather unkindly put it. Their understanding blossomed as the tournament progressed and their strength in the tackle and anticipation was more than sufficient to blunt a number of big-name strikers in the knockout stages.

Another unannounced change to the script was the "sacrifice" of Ballack. The skipper, one of the most talented goalscoring midfielders on the planet, had been expected to line up on the shoulder of the front men. Instead, he largely found himself stationed as an enforcer in front of the back four alongside the irrepressible Torsten Frings, whose absence through suspension from the semi-final against Italy was a key factor in the defeat.

Klinsmann's thinking was that the team already had enough firepower in the shape of Klose and Podolski, and since they proceeded to score eight goals between them, he had a point.

Nevertheless, it did seem a waste of Ballack's eye for goal. Surely there could have been a way to let him off the leash? To his credit, he applied himself tirelessly to the muck and nettles role. But the fact remains that he had only one truly influential game, the second round tie with Sweden, when his distribution was on the money and he went close several times with shots from varying distances.

For all the exploits of the players in Munich, Berlin, Dortmund and Stuttgart, Germany's campaign was ultimately about one man – Klinsmann. Just a few months ago, in the wake of a humiliating 4-1 friendly defeat by Italy, a large proportion of the public and media would have jettisoned him there and then. Now, with a bronze medal around his neck, he boasts the sort of adulation reserved for pop stars.

Many of Klinsmann's most controversial decisions have now been thoroughly vindicated. Jens Lehmann, who supplanted Kahn as No 1 keeper on the eve of the finals, had an outstanding tournament and should still be between the posts at Euro 2008; striker Kevin Kuranyi, surprisingly omitted from the squad, was not missed at all; and the surprise inclusion of rookie winger David Odonkor was an inspired choice. He caused sheer panic against Poland and Argentina with his blistering speed and feisty attitude.

Speed merchant...Odonkor was an inspired choice

Nor did Klinsmann miss a trick with his much-derided use of American fitness guru Mark Verstegen. Bundesliga clubs scoffed when told by the coach that their levels of conditioning were insufficient, while Klose's revelation that Verstegen had told him to lift his legs higher while running prompted only ridicule.

No one is laughing now, however. Thanks to the Verstegen regime, Germany looked the most physically fresh of all 32 finalists. Needless to say, his latest book is flying off the shelves of German bookshops.

Next challenge

The summer of 2006 was a triumph all the way down the line for Klinsmann. His team surpassed all expectations, he had the entire nation at his feet, and his erstwhile critics had long since converted. Yet he still saw fit to stand down immediately after the finals.

To those who know him well, it was no bolt from the blue. As he showed during a playing career that took him from Stuttgart to Internazionale, Monaco, Tottenham and Bayern Munich, he is a character who lives for the next challenge. This year's World Cup fired his imagination but once over, it was time for the next item. Perhaps leading the USA.

Klinsmann's resignation also had much to do with his frustration at butting heads with the forces of conservatism within the German game. He had hoped to implement a top-to-toe revolution, only for the federation and Bundesliga clubs to fight him all the way.

Predictably, the *Bundestrainer* baton now passes to Klinsmann's assistant Joachim Low, who was always much more than a second in command, taking all the national team training sessions and providing much of the tactical input. The 46-year-old ex-Stuttgart, Fenerbahce and Austria Wien boss is an excellent media operator, very close to the players, and is sure to keep the attacking football flame burning.

It only remains to be seen whether he will prove as resolutely single-minded as his predecessor. Klinsmann saw the traditional and questioned it. Low is a more consensual animal.

'Many of Klinsmann's most controversial decisions have been thoroughly vindicated'

You're still the best...Ronaldo gets a consoling pat from Roberto Carlos after being substituted against Australia

Big shots in decline

Coach Parreira paid the price for sticking with stars who failed to deliver

BRIAN HOMEWOOD in Rio de Janeiro

WHEN BRAZIL thrashed Argentina 4-1 to win the Confederations Cup in Germany last year their performance generated a mixture of awe and admiration around the world. And they had produced it in the absence of veteran full-backs Cafu and Roberto Carlos, who were rested, and forward Ronaldo, who was allowed to skip the tournament at his own request.

If those three players had stayed away from Germany this summer as well, Brazil might not be lamenting their first failure to reach the Final since 1990.

The abiding memories of Brazil's performance at the Korea/Japan World Cup are of Cafu lifting the trophy as the fireworks went off all around and Ronaldo wagging his finger after scoring yet another goal.

This time, the images that stick in the mind are of Roberto Carlos pulling up a sock, leaving Thierry Henry free to score the winning goal for France in the quarter-final, of Cafu trudging wearily off after being substituted in the same game, and of Ronaldo lumbering around the field.

Brazil gave a soulless performance in Germany. They did just enough to beat Croatia and Australia to qualify from their group with a game to spare, and to beat Ghana in the second round by a flattering 3-0. But it all came unstuck in the quarter-final against bogey team France, who, remarkably, have now won their last three World Cup meetings with the *Selecao* (the other two were in the 1986 quarter-finals and the 1998 Final). Coach Carlos Alberto Parreira paid a heavy price for banking on the experience of the two full-backs, who have a combined age of 69, and Ronaldo's scoring prowess. Once he got home, it was clear the federation would not back him and the coach resigned, with former captain Dunga coming in as his replacement.

"It depends on how you look at it," Parreira said before the finals. "You can see these players as old or experienced and, as far as I'm concerned, they are experienced, which is fundamental if you're trying to win a World Cup.

"Ronaldo is a player for the big occasion, who decides matches. He deserves a place in the team for everything he represents and for everything he has done in the past."

The forward scored three goals to take his overall finals tally to a record 15, one more than Germany's Gerd Muller. But he spent most of the time standing around and waiting for the ball to come to him, and the controversy about whether or not he was too fat never went away.

Perhaps Brazil would have got away with fielding him had he not been partnered by Adriano, another heavyweight, while Parreira insisted on leaving Robinho on the bench.

What's going on?...Ronaldinho made no impression

Warning signs

The warning signs were there as Brazil struggled to break down Croatia. The one goal they did score came from a moment of individual brilliance from Kaka. The complete lack of movement down the flanks, combined with the static performance of Ronaldo, gave Brazil almost no attacking options.

It was a similar story against Australia, when they did not score until the 49th minute, through Adriano, and had to wait until injury-time for the clincher, from substitute Fred. In between the two goals, Harry Kewell had a glaring miss at the other end.

The win booked Brazil's place in the last 16, giving Parreira the chance to experiment in the final group game against Japan. He introduced the much sprightlier Cicinho and Gilberto at full-back, and played Robinho alongside Ronaldo instead of Adriano. Brazil duly gave their best performance, winning 4-1, and many believed they had found their ideal line-up.

But, to the sound of a collective sigh of exasperation, Parreira reverted to the original team – the so-called "one to eleven" line-up – to face Ghana, and Brazil struggled again.

Columnist Juca Kfouri drew a parallel with 1966, when Brazil went out in the first round having used a number of players from the 1958 and 1962 triumphs who had clearly gone on for one tournament too many.

He wrote: "They picked heroes such as Gilmar, Djalma Santos, Bellini, Zito, even Mane Garrincha, because Joao Havelange, head of the delegation and president of the Brazilian sports confederation, wanted the greatest possible number of three-times champions. The result was an embarrassment.

"Now, in the same way, they persisted with Cafu, Roberto Carlos and Ronaldo, all three short of ideal match fitness for such a tough battle. Anyone who refuses to play the Beautiful Game deserves every punishment. Brazil lost playing ugly."

Fernando Calazans wrote in *O Globo*: "Even with all that preparation, their coach didn't manage to form a football team because he was a prisoner of names – players with big names but very small football.

"These players should have walked off the stage. As they didn't, then the coach should have removed them from the stage, but he appeared to be incapable of escaping the sameness.

"It was football without fun, without life, without joy, without personality, without the Brazilian way of playing. A national team dominated by big shots in decline."

For much of the tournament Brazil seemed to believe they had a divine right to get to the Final. "In the last 12 years of football, World Cup and all that, I've always got to the Final," Roberto Carlos said. "I can't see Brazil losing this cup."

This was reinforced by the team's apparent ability to score a goal at any time thanks to their individual qualities. There have been numerous occasions in the past three years when Brazil apparently won easily when, in truth, they were up against the wall for long spells of the game. One example was the World Cup qualifier at home to Argentina in Belo Horizonte in June 2004 when the visitors dominated but Brazil emerged 3-1 winners thanks to three penalties won and converted by Ronaldo. Another was their 5-2 win in Venezuela that October when, in fact, both sides created roughly the same number of chances. And then there was the game against Ghana, who dominated the first half.

Luck runs out

Against France, however, Brazil's luck ran out. In the 57th minute, the French won a free-kick on the left and Zinedine Zidane's delivery found Henry unmarked at the far post, where he volleyed into the roof of the net. Television replays showed Roberto Carlos, who should have been marking Henry, was left behind because he was pulling up a sock.

After that, Brazil appeared to go numb, including Parreira, who took another 22 minutes before sending Robinho into the fray. At one stage, there was the unbelievable scene of six Brazilian players exchanging passes in their own half while the French team, with all 11 comfortably behind the ball, stood and watched.

Amid all the criticism of Parreira, the Ronaldo flab factor and the ageing full-backs, the lacklustre performance of Ronaldinho almost went unnoticed. The Barcelona star and World Player of the Year produced plenty of his famous shimmies and flicks but that's about as far as it went. He remains a player with a reputation for saving his best for club level.

"He played badly, he didn't dribble, he didn't have a shot at goal, he misplaced passes and did not, at any moment, take responsibility," said the *Estado de Sao Paulo* on the day after the France match. "It was a portrait of his participation in the World Cup: apathetic, bureaucratic, mediocre and afraid of deciding."

'These players should have walked off the stage. As they didn't, the coach should have removed them'

Journalist Fernando Calazans lays into the underperforming Brazil players

Continental drift

Expectations were low for African sides in Germany and rightly so

Crash landing...Ghana's Sulley Muntari feels the force as Brazil keeper Dida gets to the ball first during the last 16 clash

MARK GLEESON in Johannesburg

AFRICA IS HOPING that its World Cup representation will be increased for the continent's first finals in 2010 in South Africa. Its leadership will argue, when FIFA discusses the topic in December, that Africa should be given six slots, one more than in the last three tournaments. Yet there is little justification for such a move in footballing terms after yet another failure at a finals.

At least this time it had been expected since four of the five African sides in Germany were playing at their first World Cup.

Ghana were the only representatives to make it past the first round, winning twice to finish behind Italy in Group E. But they were always on the back foot against Brazil in the second round after conceding an early goal and then failing to convert their own chances.

Predictably, the Black Stars were a much-improved side from the one that gave such a disappointing showing at the Nations Cup in Egypt at the start of the year. Key midfielders Michael Essien and Sulley Muntari plus forward Asamoah Gyan were all available to coach Ratomir Dujkovic for Germany having missed the African finals.

After losing to Italy in their opening game, Ghana beat a bemused Czech Republic in one of the best matches of the tournament then outdid the United States. They were gallant opponents against Brazil but their performance also reinforced the stereotype of African football – lapses of concentration in defence intercut with classy creation of chances ruined by hurried finishing.

Ghana will get better if the young side are able to gain some consistency between now and the next World Cup. However, they are without regular competitive action for the next two years since they host the 2008 Nations Cup and so do not have any qualifiers.

Ivory Coast found a bevy of admirers with the excitement of their play, but a come-from-behind win in their last group game against Serbia & Montenegro was all they had to show for it. Nevertheless, they showed their potential to become the next powerhouse of African football. The extensive youth development in the domestic game is bearing fruit despite the country being mired in civil war.

Tunisia bumbled out when they had arguably the best chance of making it to the knockout stages.

Togo were a blight on the already tacky name of African football as their players and officials looked to squeeze as much money out of the system as possible. FIFA had to send some of its money men to the team hotel to pay striking players in an attempt to end a tawdry tale of greed and lunacy.

Coach Otto Pfister had had enough even before the tournament began. First, he was hospitalised for a heart problem. Then he walked out – though was later persuaded to return – because of the continual squabbling over money.

Success story...Angola keeper Joao Ricardo

'Togo were a blight on the already tacky name of African football'

Incredible tales

After the finals the German told incredible tales of Togolese tardiness, including a delay of more than an hour before the last game against France as the players waited on the bus for officials to finish a shopping spree before they could head off to the stadium.

Togo have since fired four senior federation officials but the damage has been done. It came as no surprise that Confederation of African Football president Issa Hayatou made no effort to try to resolve the crisis before it erupted in full public view. His indifference to the image and progress of the African game is well documented.

Although Angola exited at the group stage, they did better than expected, picking up two points and conceding just two goals. They got a heroes' welcome on their return to Luanda.

Perhaps the most poignant African performance in Germany came from a European. Angola keeper Joao Ricardo, who was particularly impressive in the 0-0 draw with Mexico, is really Portuguese – he was born in Angola in the colonial era but ferried back to the motherland as a child after independence.

He has had a mediocre club career, but after being approached to play for Angola he accepted the challenge with fervour. Coach Luis Oliveira Goncalves kept faith with the 36-year-old in Germany even though he had been without a club for an entire season and showed jittery form at the Nations Cup. And Joao Ricardo struck a blow for journeyman footballers at the finals.

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Quick step back

The early exits of Japan and South Korea showed the apparent progress of Asian football in 2002 was a mirage

MICHAEL CHURCH in Hong Kong

THE DESPERATION of Asian football's hierarchy to jump on the bandwagon of Australia's successful return to the World Cup highlighted the disappointment at the showing of the region's traditional powers in Germany.

After Japan, South Korea, Iran and Saudi Arabia failed to get through their groups, it was quickly and conveniently forgotten that the Australians, although now fully-fledged members of the Asian Football Confederation, had qualified through the Oceania section.

As the Socceroos forged into the second round and very nearly took eventual champions Italy to extra-time, the other Asian contenders were already home. Understandably, their performances have led the finals to be seen as a backward step for Asian football, particularly since South Korea and Japan did so well as co-hosts four years ago when reaching the semi-finals and last 16 respectively. But in fact the prospects for a strong showing by Asia's contingent had not been good long before the teams congregated in Germany.

Japan's problems stemmed from just after the 2002 finals when newly-installed federation president Saburo Kawabuchi presented the national team coaching job to the inexperienced Zico. When the team were crying out for a wily old head to build on the success of the Philippe Troussier era, they were handed instead a man who had never worked as a head coach.

Impressive results in friendlies against England and the Czech Republic, as well as the retention of the Asian Cup in 2004, papered over the cracks. But these were all too apparent when Japan struggled to overcome Oman, Singapore and North Korea in the World Cup qualifying tournament. Although Troussier enjoyed success, his team had always had a problem scoring goals, and Zico failed to find a solution. That, allied to the Brazilian's desire to field a team that was foolishly encouraged to think for themselves, meant the writing was on the wall.

Japan made a late capitulation against Australia in their opening group game, losing 3-1. They then could only draw, 0-0, with Croatia after hapless forward Atsushi Yanagisawa missed arguably the easiest chance of the tournament.

Only the heroics of goalkeeper Yoshikatsu Kawaguchi spared Japan's blushes. He put in three fine performances, the best of them, ironically, in the 4-1 defeat by Brazil in the final group game.

That loss shattered the Japanese, and their early exit no doubt prompted the decision of star midfielder Hidetoshi Nakata to quit football altogether.

Zico has also departed the scene, taking the reins at Fenerbahce in Turkey, and his replacement, Ivica Osim, will be facing a serious rebuilding process when he takes over for the remaining Asian Cup qualifiers later this year.

The former Yugoslavia boss has been in charge of Japanese club side JEF United since 2003. This at least means he should be well aware of young talent in the J.League and which of the players are able to step up to international level. One of the major criticisms of Zico was his reluctance to give young, home-based players national team opportunities.

Play it my way...but Zico's regime only papered over the cracks in Japan's team

Lack of experience

Saudi Arabia contributed little to the tournament, although they almost claimed their first finals win since 1994, conceding a late equaliser to Tunisia in their opening game.

Once again the team were hampered by their lack of experience playing against non-Asian opposition. The entire squad are on the books of Saudi clubs, and the national team rarely play European or South American countries in friendlies.

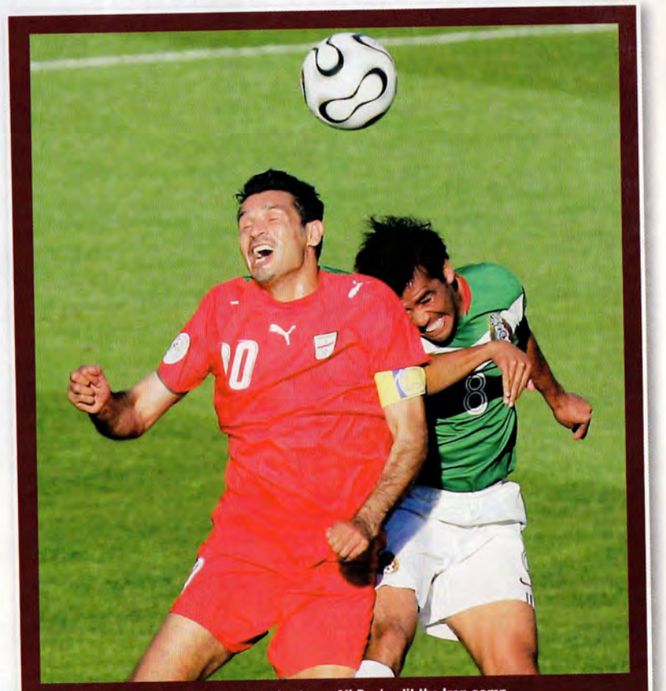
The Saudi federation is infamous for its readiness to fire coaches, but this time it has had the good sense to hold off from axing incumbent Marcos Paqueta. The Brazilian had been in charge for little more than six months by the time of the World Cup; his stay of execution may yet allow him to squeeze the best out of the players in the months or perhaps even years ahead.

Iran coach Branko Ivankovic was persona non grata, however. The Croat stood down after coming in for strong criticism following the team's disappointing showing in Germany. His successor, Amir Qalehnoie, who recently led Esteghlal to the Iranian championship, now faces the task of reuniting a divided squad.

Ivankovic's decision to ally himself with fading legend Ali Daei split the camp, and the former Bayern Munich and Hertha Berlin striker became the scapegoat for the team's opening 3-1 defeat by Mexico. The Iranians had started that game brightly and they went in at half-time drawing 1-1. But a tactical switch by Ivankovic's opposite number Ricardo Lavolpe went unchecked by the Croat, who appeared to have set his heart on a draw.

The unrest in the squad grew. Ali Karimi gave a display of petulance after being substituted in the second game, against Portugal, and he refused to play any part in the final game against Angola.

It is true that Ivankovic was hampered by injuries – the influential Germany-based quartet of Karimi, Vahid Hashemian, Ferydoon Zandi and Mehdi Mahdavikia were all unable to do the full preparatory training regime. But it was the coach's blind loyalty to the aging Daei – who started the games against Mexico and Angola but offered little in either – that led to Ivankovic being vilified at home and by the many Iranian fans who were in Germany.



Controversial choice...the selection of veteran Ali Daei split the Iran camp

Significant breakthrough

Perhaps the only Asian team to emerge from the World Cup with any pride were South Korea, who made one significant breakthrough despite their early exit. The Koreans' 2-1 defeat of Togo in the opening game was their first finals win on foreign soil at their 15th attempt.

A 1-1 draw with France in the second game gave Dick Advocaat's team a chance of progressing to the knockout phase, but they blew it when losing 2-0 to Switzerland. The exit brought an end to the reign of the Dutchman, whose parting shot was to bemoan the poor quality of the Korean League and the impact it had had on his squad's World Cup hopes.

The Koreans have at least guaranteed there will be some continuity with the announcement that Pim Verbeek will take charge. Verbeek was assistant to both Advocaat and the team's 2002 World Cup coach, Guus Hiddink.

Presuming they all qualify for next year's Asian Cup, South Korea are likely to offer the most serious threat to Japan and Australia.

'Japan were crying out for a wily old head to build on the Troussier success...instead they got Zico'

Repeat performance

It was the same old story for the Spanish in Germany

SID LOWE
in Madrid

"SOME THINGS never change. It's World Cup time again and the Spanish – some of them, at least – are once again vowing that this year, at long last, will be their year. Even coach Luis Aragones is at it, gathering his squad together to announce: 'Gentlemen, you're going to get beyond the quarter-finals.'

"The trouble is, of course, that we have been here before. And the outcome has always been the same. The words 'Spain' and 'dark horses' seem destined to go together – rather like 'Spain' and 'early flight home'."

So ran *World Soccer's* preview of the Spanish national team as they prepared for Germany. Under the headline "This time, surely?" the sub-head read: "The Spanish feel a trip beyond the quarter-finals is long overdue." Indeed it was. Unfortunately, it still is. This time, surely? Alas, not: Spain have once again failed to live up to expectations at a major tournament. It is easy to say now, of course, but some things really do never change.

Just ask the Spanish themselves, their traditional fatalism alive and well. Anyone who doubted as much only had to witness the country's reaction to another World Cup disappointment.

Spain actually fell a round earlier than normal, their 3-1 defeat by France coming one game ahead of the traditional quarter-final exit. But no anger or depression here, no furious debates, little analysis and little desire to see heads roll – just tired acceptance.

Carles Puyol may have complained the foul on Thierry Henry that led to Patrick Vieira putting France 2-1 ahead was not a foul at all. But the whinges have been whispered and, on the whole, the analyses have been quietly rational. Unlike four years ago, there was no referee to blame, nor were there any real scapegoats. No one questioned the captain, Raul, or almost no one. No one seriously questioned Aragones either.

Survivor…Luis Aragones was given increased powers despite masterminding his team's failure

The long walk home…Pablo, Antonio Lopez and Carles Puyol trudge off after the defeat by France in Hanover spelled more World Cup agony for Spain

In fact, while many underachieving World Cup coaches were forced out by an angry mob once they got home, Aragones not only kept his job but was also given another one for good measure. The veteran, who previously insisted he would walk away if Spain did not make it to the semi-finals at least, now said: "I will not be a prisoner of my words", and the federation agreed. Aragones was confirmed in his post, handed greater powers and also put in charge of the youth set-up. All that was right about Spain was down to Aragones; all that went wrong was someone else's fault.

No hysteria

For a while, at least, it seemed everyone agreed. The decision was made easier by the fact that, aided by a media traditionally soft on Aragones despite his often bizarre behaviour, few were calling for his head. Spain's familiar failure was accepted without hysteria and without the search for a sacrificial lamb. It was also accepted because the *seleccion* had genuinely turned heads, their brilliant victory over Ukraine allowing the fans to believe again, affording them the luxury of departing Germany with their heads held high.

"The national team has got us excited and emotional like never before, and that is something we should be grateful for," said Madrid-based sports daily *AS*. Its rival, *Marca*, implored: "Don't cry, because this is NOT the same as all the other times. We are going home but this time we have a team, a style, fans and a future."

They were only half right – and the majority were not fooled. For most, the Ukraine thrashing apart, nothing had changed, even if it had been fun for a while. This WAS the same as all the other times and, in the face of such familiarity, there was nothing for it but to embrace their historic fate.

Good in the group, out against the first decent side they met: it was all so predictable. Failure to reach the last 16 after games against Ukraine, Tunisia and Saudi Arabia would have been a major disaster, thankfully avoided, but there was always the strong possibility that if Spain won their group, Brazil would await in the quarter-final and that would be that. Some even suggested it might be better to finish second to avoid that eventuality.

As it turned out, they might have had a point, not so much because of Brazil but because of France. If Spain had been runners-up in Group H, they would have met Switzerland in the second round. As it was, they fell victim to *Les Bleus'* desire to vastly improve after a stuttering group showing and to their own traditional inability to rise to the big occasion.

"As soon as they faced a real team they fell apart and we got the Spain we have known all our lives," sighed respected football writer Santiago Segurola. "They were too wet behind the ears for a competition that demands a touch of nastiness and experience."

Aragones seemed to agree, reverting to historical continuity and innate national failings to explain his side's early exit. He even, rather oddly, went live on television to berate himself for not communicating to his players the need to sit back and protect their lead against the French, setting off on a rambling monologue about how "we needed a sign or a message, a whistle even – and the tragedy is that I know how to whistle brilliantly".

But generally the coach overlooked his own role in the downfall, preferring instead to complain that *Marca* had really been the ones responsible for Spain's collapse by foolishly provoking Zinedine Zidane into one last hurrah by insisting: "We're going to retire Zidane."

As far as Spain's performance was concerned, Aragones' words changed nothing; in terms of the way the national team was viewed, however, they changed much. Having accepted the World Cup exit and lauded the coach, the press suddenly found themselves provoked by his strange explanations – such as his criticism of the inexperience of a team that, just days before, he had eulogised for being full of youthful enthusiasm and untainted by the sad experience of the past.

'We needed a sign, a message, a whistle even – and the tragedy is I know how to whistle brilliantly'

Aragones admits his failure to communicate with his team during the defeat by France

Then there was his claim that Spain, unlike France, lacked an innate strong physical make-up (implicitly born of immigration); they had to learn to give up possession, even though he had been adamant a game of touch and technique was the only way to go; and his insistence the national team "don't know how to compete".

The implication was clear: Spain needed to be nastier, more effective, more dirty. When Italy defeated Germany, the headline in *Marca* screamed: "That's how you compete." The paper asked: "Did you see that, Luis? More importantly, did the players see it?"

The answer, of course, was no. By then, with the World Cup still running, the players were off on holiday, licking their wounds.

Celebrity culture... Wayne Rooney's fiancee Coleen McLoughlin (left) and friends enjoy a day out at a theme park, but the Wags' exploits became a major distraction to England's World Cup campaign

Top of the flops

The Wags were more in evidence in Germany than the players' passing ability

JIM HOLDEN in London

EVERYWHERE ENGLAND'S finest went at the World Cup the cameras were trained on them. Sadly, that meant the paparazzi capturing the shopping sprees and late-night parties of the players' wives and girlfriends rather than sports photographers snapping compelling images of the nation's best footballers.

As an exercise in displaying modern celebrity culture, England's World Cup was outstanding. As a serious attempt to lift sport's greatest prize, it was a pathetic flop.

Certainly, to witness the surreal atmosphere of the team's training headquarters around the historic spa town of Baden-Baden was to see how not to run a World Cup campaign.

Having the Wags (wives and girlfriends) and the Mads (mums and dads) close at hand was supposed to help the England stars relax at the tournament. Instead, it proved a monumental distraction, not least, so rumour had it, when the Wags phoned their partners at 4am to celebrate their social escapades.

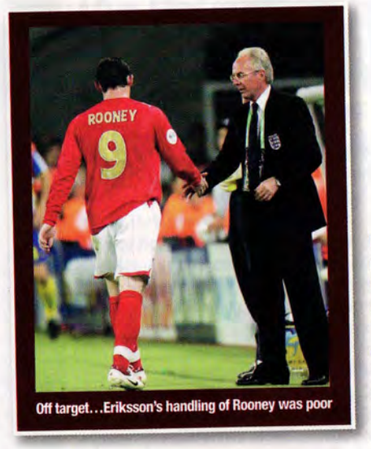
English newspapers were filled with the Wags' exploits, and the whole celebrity circus became a symbol of a flawed team and its flawed football. It wasn't the only reason for failure, but it was a salient factor. Forget the cheap excuses that England were keen to hide behind. High temperatures, the new Adidas ball, dodgy referees and provocative, cheating opponents were obstacles for every team to overcome. England failed miserably.

The plainest truth of all was that the players simply weren't good enough at the basics of modern football. They couldn't pass the ball consistently, they couldn't keep sustained possession. They didn't have the technique or the nerve to win a penalty shoot-out, and they had an anxious, below-par goalkeeper.

The tactics of coach Sven Goran Eriksson were mystifying. After five years of rigidly sticking to his favoured 4-4-2 system, the Swede changed his strategy for each game of the World Cup. A dreadful injury to striker Michael Owen didn't help team stability, but Eriksson made matters worse with continued alterations. Owen Hargreaves played well in the holding midfield role against Sweden, but was then switched to right-back for the next game, against Ecuador. Then it was back into midfield for the quarter-final against Portugal.

The inclusion in the squad of 17-year-old Theo Walcott also defied logic. Eriksson admitted he had never seen the boy play.

Even worse was the manager's handling of Wayne Rooney. Having won a significant battle against the caution of Manchester United in demanding that Rooney travel to the tournament while still recovering from a broken foot bone, Eriksson then alienated the young striker by playing him alone up front against Ecuador and Portugal. The frustration felt by Rooney at rarely receiving the ball eventually led to his red card in the latter game for stamping on an opponent.



Off target...Eriksson's handling of Rooney was poor

Weak leadership

Eriksson, such a good influence when he started as England's first foreign manager, also disappointed with his weak leadership. He pandered to the witless celebrity culture and, like Brazil's Carlos Alberto Parreira, made a crucial psychological mistake in naming his "best" team months before the tournament started. It was meant to instil confidence but actually bred a fatal complacency.

At the heart of the troubles was the inability of Frank Lampard and Steven Gerrard to play together with cohesion in central midfield. Eriksson had scoffed at long-term doubts about their pairing, but the truth was revealed in Germany. And even though Lampard played poorly throughout, Eriksson refused to drop him.

Lampard and co had been dubbed the "golden generation" of English football. At this tournament they played like a stone-age generation, with endless long balls hoofed aimlessly forward. The "golden" tag illustrated the continued self-delusion of the English game – that the players are the best in the world and that they don't cheat like other teams.

The early departure of this England team was entirely typical. At seven out of their 12 World Cups, England have lost in the quarter-finals or equivalent stage. It isn't rocket science to know that the root cause is fundamental.

Former England managers such as Graham Taylor and Kevin Keegan, who both learned the hard way, believe it is the players' lack of passing intelligence that lies at the heart of the matter.

After exiting Euro 2000 at the group stage, Keegan said: "We have to learn to play the ball out from the back, and if we do that we can be as good as anyone. One difference between us and the continentals is that if we see a team-mate closely marked we won't give him the ball. The continental player will.

"We didn't pass the ball well enough in the tournament. We didn't believe or trust in each other with a football."

Sounds familiar? Six years on, nothing has changed. And you have to wonder if it ever will.

The next man to try is Steve McClaren, the former Middlesbrough manager who has been an assistant to Eriksson for the past five years. His first decision was to ban the Wags, a sensible move. His second was to consider appointing another former England boss, Terry Venables, as an adviser. Whether that is such a good idea is less certain. No one can deny the football intelligence of Venables, but few in football could see him as one of life's No 2s. El Tel has always seemed a man in charge.

The private conversation of McClaren has echoed with talk of making significant changes and introducing a tougher regime than Eriksson's, which would not be difficult. David Beckham eased one burden by announcing he would step down as captain, with Chelsea skipper John Terry the likely successor.

Big-ego players

Wishing to be ruthless is one thing, but it is quite another, in the era of big-ego, high-earning players, to actually achieve it.

The Lampard-Gerrard conundrum will not disappear easily. They are both proud men who both believe they are the best in the country as the dynamic attacking, goalscoring midfielder. Pick one and you risk alienating the other. Switching the system to accommodate both, as Eriksson tried in Germany, did not succeed.

Another immediate dilemma is who to play in attack, with Owen out for a year and Rooney suspended for the first two matches of the Euro 2008 qualifiers. England have no other international-class forwards right now, though Dean Ashton of West Ham has potential.

McClaren takes control at a time of deep scepticism among those fed up with the endless celebrity hype and endless exaggeration of England's ability. Graham Taylor, for one, believes the country may never win a major tournament because of the lack of young English players at senior Premiership clubs.

That situation has come about because of the fundamental problem of English football at youth level. Instead of learning to play, instead of developing technique and skill, young boys grow up in an old-fashioned play-to-win culture, in which goalkeepers kick long and strong lads batter the opposition.

The long-term consequence is generations of young footballers who are uncomfortable on the ball and unwilling to pass through the team. Nevertheless, when the best of them become apprentices at Premiership clubs, they earn small fortunes and their heads are turned by dressing-rooms with a Baden-Baden mentality.

Unless that reality changes, the chances of McClaren or any other England manager winning a World Cup remain slim to zero.

'We didn't believe or trust in each other with a football'

Kevin Keegan's words after Euro 2000 were echoed in Germany

Highs and lows

Argentina, who produced some of the World Cup's best moments, and Paraguay were both undone in the air; Ecuador proved they were more than altitude specialists

TIM VICKERY
in Buenos Aires

OF ALL THE teams in Germany who failed to reach the Final, Argentina had most right to feel that they could have been there. Jose Pekerman's side were never bettered apart from in the shoot-out against the hosts. They also came up with some of the tournament highlights, especially in their surgical destruction of Serbia & Montenegro, who qualified for the finals ahead of Spain and having conceded only one goal in 10 games.

Argentina's second goal of the 6-0 win was a 60-second summary of everything their admirers had hoped from them: magnificent passing and movement, fluid creation of triangles and one-twos, quick short passes leading to rapier through balls, rounded off with a thumping finish from Esteban Cambiasso. It was a move that coaches everywhere should study and aim to emulate.

After substitutes Carlos Tevez and Lionel Messi had given second-half cameos and helped complete the rout there was a rush to install Argentina as tournament favourites.

But for those who have followed the team's recent fortunes, there was a predictable element to their demise. They controlled the quarter-final against Germany – until they went ahead their share of possession was over 65 per cent – and their opponents never seriously threatened after equalising. But Argentina's domination was not translated into chances.

As Pekerman had feared, and just as happened a year earlier in the Confederations Cup, playmaker Juan Roman Riquelme ran out of steam. His tiredness was evident in extra-time against Mexico in the second round, and his display against the Germans was his worst of the tournament.

The lack of width was also a problem. Hernan Crespo could have done with a winger to serve as a supply line, and it became increasingly hard to justify the absence of rampaging right-back Javier Zanetti, surprisingly dropped from the finals squad.

Sitting it out...Riquelme's tiredness was evident against both Mexico and Germany

Then there was the Achilles heel. Argentina are a short side. Over and over again they have been denied victory by an inability to cope with a late aerial onslaught by their opponents. It could have cost them against Ivory Coast in the opening group game. It did cost them against the Germans, after an inspired move by coach Jurgen Klinsmann. The height of substitute Tim Borowski set up the equaliser for Miroslav Klose.

In hindsight it seems clear that Messi should have come on for Riquelme in the 70th minute instead of Cambiasso. It might have prevented the Germans seizing the initiative.

Messi had played a bright half-hour in the Riquelme role in a warm-up match against Angola. He had shown his value in protecting a lead against Mexico; the ball seemed tied to his left foot in the closing stages. His flair was badly missed when Argentina had to pick themselves up and look for a winner against Germany.

Yet Pekerman, who resigned straight after his side's exit, found himself under pressure to stay on. Argentina FA boss Julio Grondona was keen to persuade him to change his mind, with, it seems, considerable public support. The team returned home to a heroes' welcome, to the indignation of Diego Maradona, himself frequently linked with the post of national team coach.

Raw material

Whoever does take over has some wonderful raw material to work with. Only Crespo and centre-back Roberto Ayala would appear too old for the next World Cup, and there is plenty of talent pressing for a chance. By 2010 Oscar Ustari will surely be in goal, Ezequiel Garay or perhaps Gabriel Paletta could develop into commanding centre-backs, and midfielder Fernando Gago and striker Sergio Aguero should have come through strongly. Argentina will doubtless be one of the teams to watch in South Africa.

After two group games Paraguay and Ecuador were in contrasting corners, the former already out, the latter into the second round, but there was little between them.

Partly it was luck of the draw. Ecuador opened up against a pair of poor sides, Poland and Costa Rica, while, against stronger opposition, Paraguay suffered two narrow defeats. Defending against the high ball had threatened to be the Paraguayans' undoing, and so it proved. They conceded an early goal to England – centre-back Carlos Gamarra headed a David Beckham free-kick into his own net – and right at the end against Sweden were punished in the air once more, a Freddie Ljungberg header.

The Paraguayans were caught between two stools in the latter game. Coach Anibal Ruiz made attacking changes, looking for a win, but the team held back, thinking that a goalless draw would be enough to keep them in the running for a last 16 place. Left-sided midfielder Cristian Riveros was withdrawn after an hour, leaving a gap that was exploited by Sweden coach Lars Lagerback. He sent on Johan Elmander, who supplied the decisive cross.

Paraguay were quick to acknowledge their lack of creativity. They had slipped back to the bad old days of 2004, when they managed just four goals in seven World Cup qualifiers. Julio Dos Santos had then emerged as a classy playmaker, but he lost the edge to his game after moving to Bayern Munich and failing to secure a regular first-team place. Dos Santos' form was poor in Paraguay's finals warm-up games and he lost his starting place in Germany.

Ruiz may wish he had trusted Dos Santos' talent to come through on the big occasion. For the last game, against Trinidad & Tobago, the coach reverted to the line-up he had originally planned to use. They gave a taste of what might have been with a 2-0 victory.

Ecuador had always expected to beat Costa Rica and lose to Germany. Their campaign hinged on the opening day clash with Poland, who obliged by giving a performance of astonishing incompetence, allowing the South Americans to win 2-0.

So coach Luis Fernando Suarez and his men were off to a flying start, and they duly beat the Costa Ricans 3-0. The Ecuadoreans, physically strong and with a clear tactical plan based on quick breaks down the flanks, had qualified for the second round and the likes of Agustin Delgado, Carlos Tenorio, Edison Mendez and Luis Valencia found themselves in the global spotlight.

But as the standard of the opposition rose, Ecuador's limitations were exposed. Against Germany in the final group game and England in the second round, Suarez used two defensive central midfielders. This limited his attacking options, the right flank was blocked in both games which only added to the team's passivity and the strikers were forced to live on scraps.

Even so, Ecuador are the South American side who can look back on Germany 2006 with most pleasure. They made their name and showed themselves and everyone else they are more than altitude specialists.

They have scaled new heights. Inside 20 years they have gone from minnows in their own continent to the top 16 in the world.

Time limit...Paraguay's Dos Santos was given little chance to show his creativity

'As Pekerman had feared, playmaker Juan Roman Riquelme ran out of steam'

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Italy under the skin

Gavin Hamilton rounds up the best of the recent publications

Forza Italia: A Journey in Search of Italy and its Football
by Paddy Agnew
(Ebury Press, £10.99)
First of all, a declaration of interest. Paddy Agnew has been *World Soccer's* Italy correspondent for almost two decades. This is his first book, and indeed the first English language book to properly tackle Italian football and its myriad issues.

It's perhaps surprising that nobody has attempted to write about the Italian game in the same way that Phil Ball wrote about Spain in *Morbo* or the way David Winner dealt with Dutch football in *Beautiful Orange*. There have been some interesting books on particular aspects of *calcio*, but Nick Park's *A Season In Verona* missed the target by some distance (he wrote about the Verona club in the season in which their crosstown rivals Chievo were making the headlines). American novelist Joe McGinniss's *Miracle of Castel Di Sangro* alluded to some of the darker aspects of the Italian game in his account of a Serie B side's season, but he didn't set his sights on the bigger targets in Serie A as Agnew has.

The reader is rewarded with a thoroughly compelling account of Italy and Italian society as seen through its football.

No other country has such a complex relationship with its national sport. Even the title of the book is a football slogan adopted by former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi for political purposes.

World Soccer readers may not be aware that Agnew's remit in Italy goes beyond football. He has also written about politics, crime and religion. That experience gives *Forza Italia* a depth and richness that most football books lack, and helps to explain how football has invaded every nook and cranny of Italian life.

The book was written before the current match-fixing scandal exploded, and legal issues probably prevented the publishers from delving deeper into the role played by the likes of Luciano Moggi, who has now been found guilty of manipulating games. But many of the themes tackled by Agnew – organised crime, drugs and fan violence – hint heavily at the impending crisis.

Calcio: A History of Italian Football
by John Foot
(Fourth Estate, £15)
This is a less personal account than Paddy Agnew's, as one might expect from an academic (Foot lectures in modern history at University College London). But his story of Italian football through the decades is an interesting record and thoroughly readable.

World Soccer Atlas
($14.99, www.soccerexplorers.com)
One of those projects that starts as a hobby and quickly becomes an obsession. The end product is a glossy directory that lists more than 6,000 clubs and 4,000 cities in a global encyclopedia. It will not be to everyone's taste but would be a useful addition to groundhoppers' bookshelves.

The Perfect 10: Football's Dreamers, Schemers, Playmakers and Playboys
by Richard Williams
(Faber and Faber, £14.99)
A beautifully written book, as one might expect from *The Guardian's* chief sports writer. The format is simple: 10 essays on 11 No 10s (Gianni Rivera and Sandro Mazzola are tackled in one go), from Ferenc Puskas through to Zinedine Zidane. The No 10 theme is a useful peg on which to hang the stories of some wonderful but very different footballers. It's highly debatable whether the position still truly exists in the modern era, but the memories revived by Williams make that debate worth having.

The Foreign Revolution: How Overseas Footballers Changed the English Game
by Nick Harris
(Aurum, £12.99)
An updated edition of a terrific book from a couple of years ago, *England Their England*. The English Premier League provided more players at this summer's World Cup than any other league. But, as Harris demonstrates through his meticulous research and some wonderful stories, foreigners in the English game are by no means a modern phenomenon.

Pele: The Autobiography
(Simon & Schuster, £18.99)
Does exactly what it says on the tin – and then some. Pele may have become somewhat predictable in his punditry, but this book reminds us just why his views are sought in the first place. Ghost writers Orlando Duarte and Alex Bellos do a fine job in bringing to life the finest moments of Pele's extraordinary playing career, but they also bring out a refreshingly honest side. The problems of Pele's son Edinho are dealt with in a frank manner, while Pele admits that his MasterCard earnings from the 1994 World Cup "was a tidy sum".

1966 Uncovered: The Unseen Story of the World Cup in England
(Mitchell Beazley, £25)
A wonderful coffee-table collection of photographs taken during the finals, on the field and off. The action shots are among the least interesting in the collection; the real gems are the behind-the-scenes pictures, which capture an era that seems a very long time ago.

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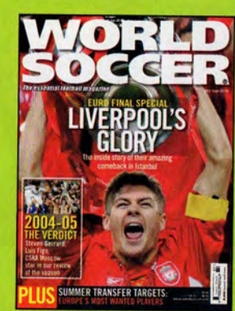

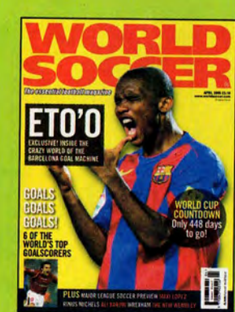

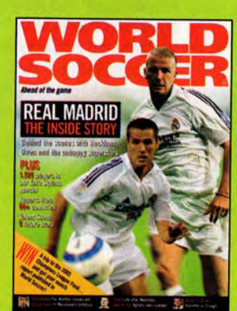

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In our hands...Thabo Mbeki and Sepp Blatter say they are fully behind the staging of the World Cup in South Africa

Under pressure

South Africa face a daunting challenge to be ready to host the 2010 World Cup, says Mark Gleeson

AS THE CURTAIN came down on the festivities in Germany, so the spotlight moved to shine starkly on South Africa, the next World Cup hosts.

Almost immediately, the country and FIFA have had to go on the defensive as sceptics voice concern about the South Africans' ability to host the tournament.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter felt obliged to deny rumours of a possible shift of the finals to Australia, and also reaffirmed his commitment to the first World Cup on the African continent. Meanwhile, South Africa's state president Thabo Mbeki was in Berlin before the World Cup Final to reassure the world of his government's commitment to making sure the 2010 tournament is of a high standard. "We want to make it the best ever," he said, creating a truly daunting challenge.

Scepticism is likely to be a major problem over the next four years for South Africa, who have done themselves no favours by effectively wasting the two years since they won the hosting rights.

There are far too few people working on the administrative side – the local organising committee had fewer than 20 staff at the last count – and the project is now also facing a tight construction deadline.

Venues from scratch

Four new venues must be constructed from scratch – in Durban, Port Elizabeth, Cape Town and Nelspruit, the gateway to the country's famous game parks – but work has started on only the first two mentioned, and that was only very recently. There have been wrangles for months over the siting of the Cape Town stadium, while the one in Nelspruit is still being designed.

South Africa will use 10 stadiums, two fewer than Germany this summer and more manageable, according to FIFA, who initially wanted just eight.

Capacity increase

The opening game and Final will be at Johannesburg's Soccer City, which is having its capacity increased from 75,000 to 94,700, making it one of the largest stadiums in the world.

Existing rugby venues such as Ellis Park (Johannesburg), Loftus Versfeld (Pretoria), the Free State stadium (Bloemfontein) and the Peter Mokaba Memorial stadium (Polokwane) will be complemented by a soccer-only venue, Rustenburg's Royal Bafokeng Sports Palace. This was built by the Bafokeng, one of the country's richest tribes since their lands sit atop valuable deposits of platinum.

South Africa does have the budget to meet the cost of the major overhaul of infrastructure and facilities necessary for 2010. The government has already rolled out some ambitious development projects, and work on infrastructure such as roads and railways is ongoing. The World Cup brings them into focus and gives them a tighter deadline.

Soccer officials say they realise South Africa will be scrutinised more closely than any previous hosts to ensure that the 2010 event matches the success of Germany. FIFA has already sent representatives to work in the country. Security and transportation will be two of the issues high on the agenda. A high crime rate tarnishes the attraction of visiting the country, while the public transport system is poor. The primary modes of transport will be plane and car for the estimated half million visitors.

"The Germans set a very high standard for us but it is our intention to make sure we live up to those expectations," said Irvin Khoza, chairman of the South African organising committee.

'The South Africans have effectively wasted the two years since they won the hosting rights'

First and last...Johannesburg's Soccer City will stage the opening game and the Final

The venues

To be built:

Cape Town – Renaissance stadium (capacity 68,000)
Durban – King Senzangakhona stadium (70,000)
Nelspruit – Mbombela stadium (40,000)
Port Elizabeth – Nelson Mandela stadium (50,000)

To be upgraded:

Bloemfontein – Free State stadium (40,000)
Johannesburg – Soccer City (94,700)
Johannesburg – Ellis Park (50,000)
Polokwane – Peter Mokaba Memorial stadium (40,000)
Pretoria – Loftus Versfeld stadium (52,000)
Rustenburg – Royal Bafokeng Sports Palace (40,000)

Heard but not seen

The best refs are still the ones nobody notices

PELE THOUGHT GERMANY 2006 the cleanest World Cup he could remember. Yet FIFA's statistics show record totals of red cards and bookings. And the unfortunate concluding image was of Zinedine Zidane's butt on Marco Materazzi.

Where is the truth? And, having discerned that much, what can be improved? Is it merely a matter of answering the latest fashion? Of cracking down on the divers? Of watering down the value of a yellow card by introducing a ban after three of them, rather than two, at a World Cup?

Perhaps, perversely and conversely, it is time to stem the annual flood of new interpretations and allow the present set of referees time and space in which to work. That way, there may develop a consistency of approach that has been lacking ever since Sepp Blatter was provoked into law-fiddling action by the utter incompetence on view at the 1990 World Cup.

Those were the bad old days when referees had to take their turn as linesmen, a task for which they were ill-suited. Offside decisions by referees unused to the angles were comically inept.

Thus FIFA moved gradually to employing "real" linesmen and finally to adopting, grudgingly, the UEFA practice of appointing teams of officials from the same country.

Specific targets

The 1994 World Cup finals in the United States were the first for which the world governing body laid down specific targets for referees to attack: the tackle from behind and feigning of injury. In 1998 it brought referees together for the now traditional pre-finals conference, which was extended this year to a full-scale, week-long training and instruction week.

Lubos Michel, the highly rated young Slovak official, said: "Many of us know each other from similar UEFA refereeing courses and from officiating at world youth events. There's a much greater uniformity of refereeing standards worldwide. It's not like the bad old days."

But try telling that to fans at this year's finals who saw matches spoiled by over-zealous officiating in the early minutes.

Angel Marcos, the Franco-Argentine coach, commented perceptively in *L'Equipe*: "Referees were under pressure from FIFA to act early against foul play. But they should have borne in mind the nervous tension of the players and the effect of nerves on the timing of a challenge on some pitches, which were, in any case, too hard and too fast."

The grim fairytale in Germany, of course, was enacted by Russian Valentin Ivanov in the Portugal-Holland clash. But as his father – also Valentin and a World Cup inside-forward in 1958 and 1962 – observed: "FIFA said it expected referees to get tough on players who used foul tactics, dirty play and their elbows. Valentin just tried to follow orders. What else did they expect?"

'Some referees take themselves too seriously. The fans don't come to see them whistle'

Former World Cup referee Walter Eschweiler

Ivanov's 16 yellow cards and four reds are both World Cup records, but he was betrayed by the players. A game with Cristiano (stepover, fall over) Ronaldo on one side and Arjen (I must try to remember it's a man's game) Robben on the other was always going to be a poisoned chalice.

Angel Villar, president of FIFA's referees committee, ignored such aberrations. He told me: "Standards today are the highest they have ever been. Our officials are younger than ever, fitter than ever and work harder on their skills and knowledge than ever."

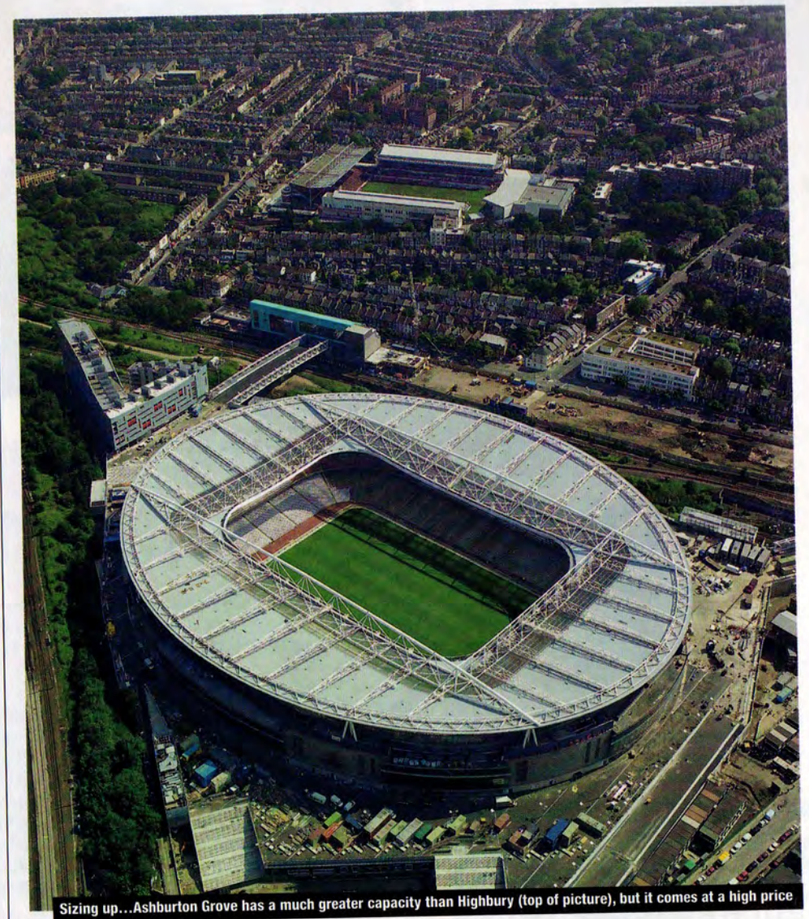
Back to black

Personally, I would prefer to see referees forced back into the old all-black strip, rather than the present Technicolor dreamcoats. For me, the best referee is still the one nobody notices, and that is more likely when the man is in black.

German Walter Eschweiler, a World Cup referee in 1982 and now a civil servant, is of the same mind. He says: "The laws have changed very little since my time and neither has the basic role of the referee, which is to keep the football flowing. The referee is nothing more than someone who is necessary for the game to take place. Some referees take themselves too seriously. The fans don't come to see them blow their whistle."

So, instead of another raft of changes and re-evaluations, it might help everyone to stand still for a couple of years. After all, the next World Cup isn't until 2010.

On the cards... Valentin Ivanov books yet another player, Luis Figo, during the notorious Portugal-Holland game



Sizing up...Ashburton Grove has a much greater capacity than Highbury (top of picture), but it comes at a high price

Erase the music

Who was so out of tune they decided to introduce canned music into World Cup matches? Playing *Que Sera, Sera* over the public address system, as they did before extra-time and penalty shoot-outs, may be the sort of thing that goes down well in the American sporting culture but it was out of place in Germany. The football itself is the show. If FIFA doesn't know that, it knows nothing.

Payback time for Arsenal

ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, Arsenal enter a new era when they play the first league match at Ashburton Grove, just down the road from Highbury.

In the 1930s Highbury became known to a wider public through a crime film entitled *The Arsenal Stadium Mystery*. Now, a mystery of a financial variety is being enacted relating to the club's new home.

Arsenal's strategy to repay the £230million they owe is not good news for manager Arsene Wenger or Arsenal's fans.

They have been led to believe that the new stadium, with a 60,000 capacity compared with Highbury's 38,500, will generate major income for team building.

But the stadium legacy means pegging net transfer spending to £12m over each of the next three years (assuming Champions League qualification). This is above Arsenal's usual spend but players such as Sol Campbell and Dennis Bergkamp must be replaced.

Income streams

Arsenal will be covering the £230m with the totality of their matchday ticket income. This leaves "only" broadcasting and commercial income free to cover the rest of the price of running a G-14 club.

Wenger's task is to keep them in the Champions League. If anything, he is now under more pressure than ever before.

Leniency is no solution

Let off lightly…Moggi

JUVENTUS DOWN only as far as Serie B and Milan still in A. The Italian sports court's sentencing seemed lenient to me and to prosecutor Stefano Palazzi, who wanted Juventus dropped to C and Milan to B.

But perhaps the court was trying to find a middle road that would not create too many problems for the fast-following appeal session. That's being generous.

And how was it that Luciano Moggi, the former Juve director-general at the heart of the match-fixing scandal, was not banned for life or, at the least, *sine die*?

I can't say it raises much confidence in anyone producing a long-term solution to Italian football's endemic sickness.

Farce of the Final insult

WHAT A SHAMBLES at the end of the World Cup Final. No, not Zinedine Zidane's flattening of Marco Materazzi but what passed for a presentation ceremony. Italy's World Cup winners were all up on that horrible little trailer waiting…and waiting… and waiting.

Where was Sepp Blatter, president of FIFA, to do the honours with his organisation's most prestigious bauble? Nowhere in sight. Where was anyone else who seemed to know what was meant to happen? Nowhere in sight.

Eventually we had the bizarre sight of Lennart Johansson, president of FIFA's World Cup organising committee, using his weight to shove aside the Italian players, yank the Cup off its stand and then…hand it to Italy captain Fabio Cannavaro. At least Zidane's assault on Materazzi was in the heat of the moment.

FIFA and the Germans had had six years to prepare for that crowning moment. Blatter and co had missed their final cue.

Unworthy and inefficient

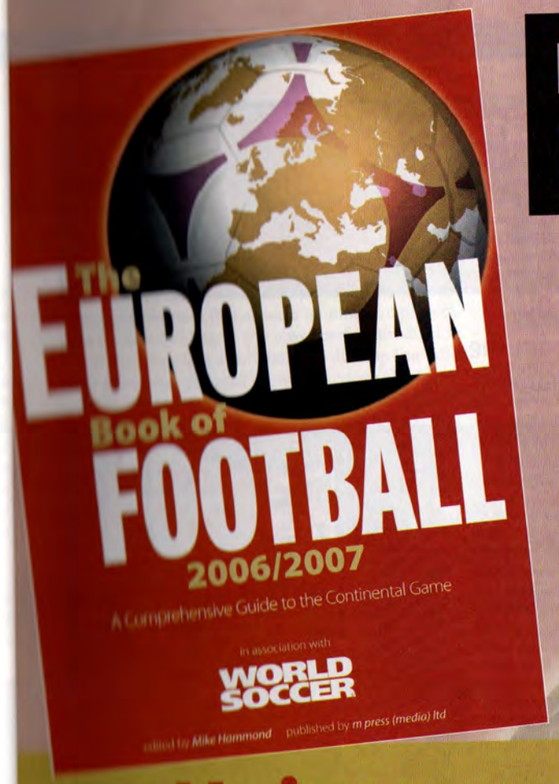
What happened – or didn't happen – was farcical, unworthy and downright inefficient.

The same goes for the third-place play-off. Although the German players, who beat Portugal 3-1, received bronze medals, the Portuguese received nothing. Not a medal, not a handshake, not even a bunch of flowers out of Uncle Sepp's garden. That is a pathetic and slovenly way to dismiss Luis Figo and assorted team-mates who have given so much to the game and finished the tournament in such an elevated position.

Of course, the German players revelled in the presentation ceremony, the fireworks and the party atmosphere. But imagine if Portugal had won and Oliver Kahn and co had been the ones condemned to a tatty, silent exit as hosts.

Either scrap the third-place play-off altogether or offer both teams the ceremonial courtesies.

Uh, what happens next?…officials and dignitaries appear uncertain about who should be making the World Cup presentation. Lennart Johansson (left) finally took on the role



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WS WORLD SOCCER GLOBAL VIEW Paul Gardner

Street of shame

Berlin's "street football" festival suffered from the same problems that affect the professional game

Unreal…Senegal (orange) take on Afghanistan in the Berlin tournament

MY MOST VIVID memory of World Cup 2006 is of an event in Berlin on July 5. That was the day I was struck by a thunderbolt of soccer reality. The day when I could no longer doubt that our sport has gone seriously adrift, has fallen into the hands of people who don't know and probably don't care to know anything about its roots and its true, inner nature. The day when I experienced, in little more than an hour, a concentrated dose of just about everything that is taking away its purity and dignity – and ultimately, its value.

The previous night, in the first semi-final, Italy, playing fairly decent football, had eliminated the pedestrian Germans. World Cup football was not living up to the hype – in fact, most of it was just plain trite – so I turned to something that promised more interest and excitement, the World Street Football Festival.

The world of untrained kids was bound to be more attractive, their football more spontaneous, more joyous, than the tediously over-coached efforts of the highly paid pros I'd been watching. I found an article by Jurgen Klinsmann extolling the wonders of the street game and proclaiming "we need more street footballers" – which suggested there was a serious football intent behind this festival.

It had been inaugurated three days earlier by Sepp Blatter, who attended the opening game between a Berlin team and one from Turkey on what the FIFA press release described as an "improvised street-side pitch".

'Those looking to this to provide the football geniuses of the future had better look elsewhere'

The first warning of trouble came when I consulted the FIFA World Cup website for directions. That "improvised street-side pitch" had now become the "Street Football Stadium" in Mariannenplatz.

I set off, hoping that the stadium wouldn't be as bad as it sounded. It was worse. Far worse. They had indeed erected a temporary mini-stadium of scaffolding.

I paid my one euro, passed through a security check and entered the stadium…where the noise was overwhelming, a guy screaming into a microphone, giving a running commentary, in English for some reason, on a game between the Berliners and a Norwegian team.

I leaned on a barrier and was approached by a security officer. No standing, would I please sit down.

This was street football? In a stadium? There was no street – the playing surface was an artificial turf carpet, surrounded by waist-high boards off which the ball could be played.

Once upon a time, I played street football, and it was never anything like this. We played on a real street, a hard, dirty surface that meant a minimum of physical play, no slide-tackling. It was a wonderful introduction to self-discipline and an invitation to develop true ball skills rather than physical prowess. And we played without adults. Whatever organisation there was, whatever rules had to be made up or applied, we did it.

Both essentials were ditched at Mariannenplatz. The artificial turf allowed a faster, more physical, totally different game…and there were adults everywhere – coaches, yelling commentators, organisers.

Organised street football, of course, is already an oxymoron. Looking at the organisers of this festival – streetfootballworld – I find nothing but good intentions and, I have no doubt, good people. This is a global organisation that clearly cares about kids. How much it cares about football is much less clear to me.

Maybe I'm taking this thing too seriously – but if so, I am evidently not the only one. Klinsmann's plea that "we need street footballers" comes, I'm sure, from the heart. The kids' game, chaotic as it often is, is still the purest way of nurturing outstanding talent.

The problem I have is that the "street football" seen in Berlin was a travesty of the real thing.

SFW's website says that street football is "all about football as a cultural mediator and a medium for social development". That is the language of sociology, not football. Its aims – to promote team spirit, global learning and living without violence – are unassailable. So too are the results. Youngsters from all across the world, most of them from poor backgrounds, having a ball in Berlin – there cannot be arguments against that.

But the level of play in the three games I saw was just not very good. Those looking to this "street football" to provide the football geniuses of the future had better look elsewhere.

Frightening example

So be warned: the Berlin festival was a frightening example of what happens when the non-football people take over. The game gets pushed into the background as other considerations take precedence.

What was happening in that makeshift stadium in Mariannenplatz was a sharply focused image of what has been insidiously enveloping the sport at the pro level for years. At the festival what we got was a thoroughly distorted version of street football. One in which non-football considerations such as marketing and sponsorship and no doubt legal considerations (I'm thinking of that soft, safe playing surface) and the desirability of the sport being a "cultural mediator" simply swamped the sport.

And is that so very different from what we were getting in the World Cup games themselves? The World Cup was "a big party" we were told, over and over again. The Germans had proved they know how to party and this would create a future "tourism dividend". Then there was the £1.35billion boost for the German economy, which could lift the country's GDP by as much as 0.4 per cent.

Is that a laudable purpose for the World Cup, to make one of the world's richest countries even richer?

'What we got was a thoroughly distorted version of street football, in which considerations such as marketing and sponsorship swamped the sport'

What do all these financial figures have to do with the sport itself? Nothing. What do all those hugely expensive corporate seats in the stadiums and the ubiquitous hospitality suites have to do with the sport? Nothing. How can it be that, hours after the Final, with Italy newly crowned as world champions, the main story on FIFA's website gave the breathtaking news that McDonald's had signed on again as a World Cup sponsor?

It can be because the football has got lost in a welter of sponsor deals, marketing matters, TV contracts and glossy publicity activity.

Mediocrity rules

The World Cup, the climax of all this, has indeed become one big party, and it gets bigger and brasher every time. The one thing that does not get better is the quality of the football. It gets worse. The last two World Cups have failed to produce a single outstanding team. Mediocrity and cautious, boring, defensive football rule.

Two days before the Final, Franz Beckenbauer said there had been "no real thrillers" among the games and slammed the "lack of courage" of the many coaches who chose to play with only one striker. Blatter had his say: "The football isn't that bad, but there aren't enough goals – and when there are too few goals, the public isn't very enthusiastic. The essence of the game is goals."

Those are damning indictments of a sport in trouble. A sport that is scared of goals, scared of scoring. The appalling thing is that this is nothing new – it has been going on for decades, but nothing meaningful has been done about it.

Blatter talks of a symposium to "make football more attractive again". What the sport urgently needs is a massive re-think, to work out how to make it an activity in which attacking play and scoring goals are the way to win games. As things stand, conventional thinking is that defence is what matters most. Until that can be proved wrong, why would one expect coaches to play attacking football?

Commercial break… McDonald's renewed sponsorship dominated the headlines on FIFA's website

WS WORLD SOCCER HOME FRONT David Conn

No laughs in Villa farce

Deadly Doug's soap opera plunges to new depths

LET'S PULL NO PUNCHES – as a model of pre-season preparation, Aston Villa's could have been better. It is, in fact, difficult to recall a club soap opera that managed at the same time to be quite so spectacularly revealing and hideously embarrassing as the plot of the Villa Park statements of July 2006.

The atmosphere at the famous old ground has been fractious for some years, and it came close to exploding last season, when many fans lost belief in David O'Leary as their manager, and Villa finished 16th in the Premier League. The fans couldn't decide whether to take it out most on O'Leary, or the long-term target of their contempt, Doug Ellis, the 82-year-old who has been Villa's majority owner and chairman since 1982.

Campaigning Villa fans have had no doubt that Ellis, one of the last relics of the men who ran England's big clubs in the 1980s, is to blame for the team's tedious performances and the absence of players who might gladden a Brummie's weary heart. Ellis is accused of not having invested enough money at crucial times to take Villa where the fans believe a club of its size, geographical position and pedigree should be. When Graham Taylor left the manager's job in 2003, he made a few pointed observations about the running and structure of the club, his glare clearly on Ellis.

Outsiders might argue that Villa fans are yet another bunch with a puffed-up idea of where they belong in the football firmament. Yes, Villa were founder members, in 1888, of the Football League, the world's first such competition, of which the then Villa chairman, William McGregor, was the founding father. True, Villa won the championship in 1981 with a hard-working, at times marvellously skilful side, who played their way to an outstanding European Cup victory the following season. But it is self-delusion to believe that those freakish high points give Villa pre-eminence by right. Others can justifiably point out that before 1981, Villa hadn't won the League since 1910, and they haven't won it since. Nor have they been complete strangers to relegation.

Tickets to ride...Aston Villa fans showed their disillusionment with the regime of Ellis (inset) by abandoning their season tickets after the final home game of last season

Major grumbling

Believing your club should be doing better, though, is a syndrome affecting fans of every club in the country – possibly excepting Chelsea. To name a few, fans of Wolves, Nottingham Forest and Derby are appalled at where their clubs are mired; and Manchester City and Everton will host major grumbling if they don't improve this season, from fans who think only of the odd flights to glory, not the extended muddle that comprises most clubs' real histories.

When Jack Walker promised years ago to "take Blackburn Rovers where we belong", some felt like telling him the club was already there, in the top half of the old Second Division. Even now, Blackburn compete in the Premier League thanks only to Walker's financial support, which continues from beyond the grave via his family trust arrangements.

Ellis is one of many provincial businessmen who would have liked to be worshipped as footballers but had to chart an alternative route to football fame by buying shares in clubs later in life. Having made his money in the package holiday business when it was taking off in the 1950s, Ellis bought into Birmingham City and was a director at St Andrews for three years in the 1960s. He bought into Villa in 1968, remaining as a director for 11 years until he left following boardroom wrangles. He then briefly became involved at Wolves. It is hard to imagine how much it must gall him that those two years of Villa triumph, 1981 and 1982, the wondrous flowering of Gary Shaw, Tony Morley and Peter Withe, happened during the brief time in 38 years that he was away from the club.

He returned in 1982 and can argue that he has at least kept Villa in the top flight every season except for one, 1987-88. Between 1996 and 2002 the club never finished outside the top eight in the Premier League, they won the League Cup in 1994 and 1996, and reached the FA Cup Final in 2000. Ellis always says he has spent reasonable money on players and backed his managers, but would not gamble the finances on a push for glory.

The fans are bitter that, while not splashing massive cash on players, Ellis himself has made a lot of money from the club. He is understood to have bought his original 42 per cent of Villa for around £500,000, then, during the Premiership's gold rush in 1997, Ellis floated Aston Villa on the stock exchange, immediately selling shares for £4million. Deadly Doug remains the largest shareholder, and tens of millions of pounds are cited as his price whenever takeover talk murmurs around Villa Park.

Well-feathered nest

In addition, Ellis has been paid a tidy dividend most years since the float, plus a fabulous wage – last year it was £296,555. One campaigning group added up all his earnings from Villa over the years to way over £8m. I interviewed him for my book *The Football Business* in 1997 in his office, and it did seem an abundantly well-feathered nest.

Calls for Ellis to go have grown over the years, although last season O'Leary was at least as popular a candidate for the push. The former Leeds boss steered Villa to sixth place in 2004 and 10th in 2005, but did not conquer hearts and minds, and discontent rose in line with last season's disappointments. With all this rancour, something was sure to happen, but nothing like July's sour farce was ever imagined.

Quite how the local newspaper was given the go-ahead to print an extended grumble about Ellis in the name of the players of Villa's first team will probably always be disputed by everybody with a position to defend. Ellis was accused in the statement of meanness – a charge that will have been popular with fans – allegedly to the extent that he refused Villa's physio a cup of coffee on expenses. Ellis responded to the statement by holding an "internal investigation" into how it came about, suggesting he was not going to respond to the criticisms, but target whoever had engineered their airing. It was a very short step from that announcement to telling the world that O'Leary was leaving the club "by mutual consent". The players broke ranks, too, with some saying they had known nothing about any statement.

A week into pre-season training, Ellis was still there, showing no sign of vacating a chairman's position he clearly treasures. The club had no manager and a first-team dressing-room with more politics than the UN in general session. Oh, and fans utterly outraged at the state their club is in. Which makes it fair to say that, as pre-seasons go, it wasn't ideal.

Past glory...Villa's 1982 European Cup triumph

'A week into pre-season training, the club had no manager and a first-team dressing-room with more politics than the UN in general session'

DIGEST

NEWS AND REPORTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

WS WORLD SOCCER

WORLD CUP COACHES

Rush for the exit

FEWER than half the coaches in charge at the World Cup will still be in their jobs at the start of the new season. The situation highlights the short-term nature of the modern-day national coach's job.

Those leaving included Marcello Lippi, who led Italy to triumph, and Jurgen Klinsmann, who steered Germany into the semi-finals, as well as a host of less successful others.

Brazil's Carlos Alberto Parreira resigned after it became clear the federation would not support him. He was replaced by ex-captain Dunga.

Jose Pekerman quit straight after Argentina's defeat on penalties by Germany in the quarter-finals, although his federation did not accept the resignation, initially at least.

By contrast, Serbia (now without Montenegro) were quick to appoint a new man, former Spain boss Javier Clemente, after Ilija Petkovic quit. The team lost all three group games and had the worst goal difference of any of the finalists, minus eight. Clemente is Serbia's first foreign manager.

Alexandre Guimaraes took the rap for Costa Rica's dismal showing – they also lost all their group games – while Zlatko Kranjcar was sacked by the Croatian federation after his side's failure to make the last 16. Former Croatia defender Slaven Bilic has taken the reins.

Branko Ivankovic, another Croat, quit Iran after their group stage exit. The new boss is Amir Qalehnoie, coach of domestic champions Esteghlal.

Poland's poor campaign spelt the end for Pawel Janas. His successor is Dutchman Leo Beenhakker, whose contract with Trinidad & Tobago ran out after the World Cup. Beenhakker was one of a number of coaches who had agreed before the finals they would move on after their team's exit. The most high-profile of these was England's Sven Goran Eriksson.

To Russia with love...Guus Hiddink has swapped the Socceroos for a new challenge in Moscow

Japan hire Osim

Brazilian Zico left Japan to take charge of Fenerbahce in Turkey, with former Yugoslavia boss Ivica Osim taking over. Ricardo Lavolpe was also set to return to club management after leaving the Mexico job.

Guus Hiddink had always planned to leave Australia to take up a new position with Russia; his assistant, Graham Arnold, will take charge for the rest of the year.

South Korea, one of Hiddink's old haunts, have appointed yet another Dutchman, Pim Verbeek, as head coach following the departure of Dick Advocaat. Verbeek was right-hand man to both Hiddink and Advocaat.

Henri Michel has relinquished the Ivory Coast hot seat for a job in Qatar with Al Arabi.

Bruce Arena was presented as the new coach of New York Red Bulls within 48 hours of the US federation announcing it would not be renewing his contract. Arena was the longest-serving coach at the World Cup, in charge since 1998.

Paraguay's Anibal Ruiz will continue until the start of 2007, when Gerrardo Martino will take over, while ill health was given as the reason for Ghana's Ratomir Dujkovic stepping down.

Gavin Hamilton

Country to club...Bruce Arena

2006 WORLD CUP COACHES

Angola: Luis Oliveira Goncalves – under contract until end 2006.
Argentina: Jose Pekerman – resigned.
Australia: Guus Hiddink – out of contract.
Brazil: Carlos Alberto Parreira – resigned.
Costa Rica: Alexandre Guimaraes – resigned.
Croatia: Zlatko Kranjcar – fired.
Czech Republic: Karel Bruckner – contract extended to 2008.
Ecuador: Luis Fernando Suarez – under contract until end 2006.
England: Sven Goran Eriksson – left by mutual consent.
France: Raymond Domenech – contract until 2008.
Germany: Jurgen Klinsmann – resigned.
Ghana: Ratomir Dujkovic – resigned.
Holland: Marco Van Basten – contract until 2008.
Iran: Branko Ivankovic – resigned.
Italy: Marcello Lippi – resigned.
Ivory Coast: Henri Michel – out of contract.
Japan: Zico – out of contract.
Mexico: Ricardo Lavolpe – out of contract.
Paraguay: Anibal Ruiz – leaving in January 2007.
Poland: Pawel Janas – resigned.
Portugal: Luiz Felipe Scolari – contract extended to 2008.
Saudi Arabia: Marcos Paqueta – still in job.
Serbia & Montenegro: Ilija Petkovic – resigned.
South Korea: Dick Advocaat – out of contract.
Spain: Luis Aragones – contract until 2008.
Sweden: Lars Lagerback – contract until 2008.
Switzerland: Kobi Kuhn – contract until 2008.
Togo: Otto Pfister – still in job.
Trinidad & Tobago: Leo Beenhakker – out of contract.
Tunisia: Roger Lemerre – contract extended until 2008.
Ukraine: Oleh Blokhin – still in job.
United States: Bruce Arena – out of contract.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Ahly rocked by Sfaxien

No contest...Sfaxien's Shula towers above Moussa of Al Ahly

AL AHLY, who won the Champions League undefeated last season, were beaten 1-0 away by CS Sfaxien of Tunisia on the opening day of this year's group stage. The loss also ended the Egyptian champions' 76-match unbeaten run on African soil.

Sfaxien's victory suggested the tournament will be as open as recent editions. It was the provincial side's debut at this stage of the competition and also the first game in charge for coach Mrad Mahjoub, drafted in after the defection of Swiss Michel Decastel to Qatar.

The winner came just before half-time when defender Issam Merdassi stole in to head home. The home side proceeded to press and harry their opponents, never allowing them to settle. Ahly's frustration boiled over at the end when Shady Mohamed and Emad Moteab jostled the referee. Both were given one-match bans by the Confederation of African Football.

Sfaxien were joined at the top of Group A by JS Kabylie of Algeria, who beat Asante Kotoko of Ghana 1-0. Mali striker Cheikh Oumar Dabo had a memorable debut following his move from UAE side Dubai SC, earning and converting the penalty that brought Kabylie the win.

In Group B, Enyimba of Nigeria, who preceded Al Ahly as African champions in 2003 and 2004, showed their potential to recapture the title with a 2-0 win away to 2000 champions Hearts of Oak of Ghana. Ivory Coast's ASEC Abidjan snatched a late equaliser away to South Africa's Orlando Pirates to earn a 1-1 draw.

Mark Gleeson

ROUND-UP

Van Winckel rips up contract

Olympic bid...Vingada

● Belgian Jan Van Winckel quit as SWAZILAND coach after just two matches in charge. The team lost their COSAFA Castle Cup qualifying semi-final to South Africa on May 20, but beat Madagascar in the third-place play-off. Gcina Dlamini is back to take the reins.

Police club Royal Leopards are the new Swazi league champions.

● Van Winckel's compatriot Henri Depireux, a former Cameroon coach, has taken charge of DR CONGO, while ex-Mauritania boss Noel Tosi, a Frenchman, is now at the helm of CONGO.

● ZAMBIA have named Patrick Phiri as caretaker coach following the departure of Kalusha Bwalya.

● Jean-Francois Jodar has taken charge of MALI on a four-year contract.

● Portuguese coach Nelo Vingada has returned to EGYPT to take charge of the Olympic side as they bid to qualify for the Beijing Games. Taha Besri has quit club side ENPPI to take over at Arab Contractors. Besri's replacement is German Rainer Zobel, who now has former national team star Hani Ramzy as his assistant.

● In ALGERIA, JS Kabylie pipped defending champions USM Alger to win the League by a point. USM also missed out on the Cup, losing to Mouloudia Alger in the Final.

● SOUTH AFRICA'S Ajax Cape Town have sold Under-23 striker Stanton Lewis to mother club Ajax Amsterdam.

● Police XI won the league title in BOTSWANA.

● In NIGERIA, coach Fatai Amoo has quit Julius Berger to join former African champions Enyimba.

● Sporting Praia have won the championship on the CAPE VERDE ISLANDS after beating Academico de Sa 3-2 on aggregate in the Final.

Mark Gleeson

Ground force...Tibet (in white) take on Gibraltar in Hamburg

Going Wild

THE WILD CUP, a tournament for teams not affiliated to FIFA, was staged in Hamburg on the eve of the World Cup, and the fact there was minimal interference by the football authorities suggests they were rather more focused on the somewhat larger event taking place in Germany.

The competition, organised by Hamburg's St Pauli club, featured Gibraltar, Greenland, North Cyprus, Tibet and Zanzibar, plus a team of veteran and youth players from the hosts.

FIFA might have been expected to intervene since it has attempted to stop games involving non-members in the past. Tibet, for example, faced massive pressure not to play Greenland in a friendly in 2001, though the game went ahead. But the world body raised no objections this time.

Several of the teams in Hamburg represent disputed states or regions, but there was little political pressure from governments that do not recognise the area in question to halt the games. Nor was the German federation, the DFB, heavy-handed, despite St Pauli's participation.

Organiser Steffen Frahm of St Pauli said: "The DFB called and said not to use any first-team players, and the Chinese consul visited us and asked us to stop Tibet playing, but of course we said no."

St Pauli used an agency, Carat, to help organise the tournament, and this gave the DFB an excuse to permit the event. Willi Hink, the federation's head of amateur sports, referees and women's football, said: "FC St Pauli itself will not take part with their official team. The whole tournament is therefore a non-official private tournament of non-official teams and not explicitly covered by our regulations."

Political considerations have even made travelling to games a problem in the past for the Hamburg competitors. Last October, the Tibetans had planned to travel from their base in India to play the team representing the Occitania region of France, but the French government refused to grant visas.

Visas come easier

"This time, it took only three days to get visas to come here from India," said manager Kalsang Dhondup, who brought 19 players from there and five from Switzerland. The latter contingent included Dorjee Tsawa, who has played in the Swiss top flight for the past 12 years, most recently for Schaffhausen.

North Cyprus had to cancel a game against Monaco earlier this year after the principality's authorities came under pressure from the Cypriot government, which does not recognise the breakaway republic, not to grant visas. But there was no problem this time, even though North Cyprus were late replacements, ironically for Monaco, in the Hamburg event.

The North Cypriots went on to win the trophy, beating Zanzibar 4-1 on penalties in the Final after a 0-0 draw.

Cengiz Uzun, head of external relations at the North Cyprus association, said: "We won and that was great for us because TV in Turkey and Euronews mentioned us. Even Greek Cypriot TV is coming north for an interview. Things are getting better for us."

The participants' travel and accommodation expenses were paid for by the organisers. Internet gaming group MyBet was the main sponsor, and the semi-finals and Final were screened live on German cable TV channel DSF.

The tournament was such an attraction that Joe Ramirez, 35, came out of retirement to take over as Gibraltar squad captain. Ramirez played professionally for Glentoran in Northern Ireland and in the Spanish Third Division for Balona.

"We could afford only six teams this time, but maybe we can do it again in a year or two," Frahm said.

With no World Cup to organise next year, FIFA and the DFB may not be quite so accommodating.

Steve Menary

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10 stars of the 2010 World Cup

Nick Bidwell profiles some of the players who could well shine in South Africa in four years' time

IN HINDSIGHT, Holland boss Marco Van Basten made a big mistake in omitting young Ajax striker Klaas Jan Huntelaar from his World Cup squad.

The 22-year-old was bang in form, having finished top scorer in the Dutch League with 33 goals, and would arguably have provided more punch than the off-colour Ruud Van Nistelrooy and Dirk Kuijt.

Not that this summer was a complete write-off for Huntelaar. Indeed, he was the star turn at the European Under-21 Championship in Portugal, scoring four times to help steer Holland to the title and put himself top of the tournament goals chart.

Huntelaar joined Ajax from Heerenveen in January for a Dutch record £6.4million. At the time, many in the media thought he was overpriced but a few months and a hatful of goals later, it seems a bargain.

In fact, Ajax owe the forward a huge debt of gratitude. After a disappointing first half of the season, they were transformed by his dead-eye finishing – 16 goals in 17 starts in the League, two more as Ajax triumphed in the play-offs for a Champions League place, and five more to help his team claim the Dutch Cup. "Huntelaar is just a born goalscorer," says team-mate Hedwiges Maduro. "He's always two steps ahead of defenders."

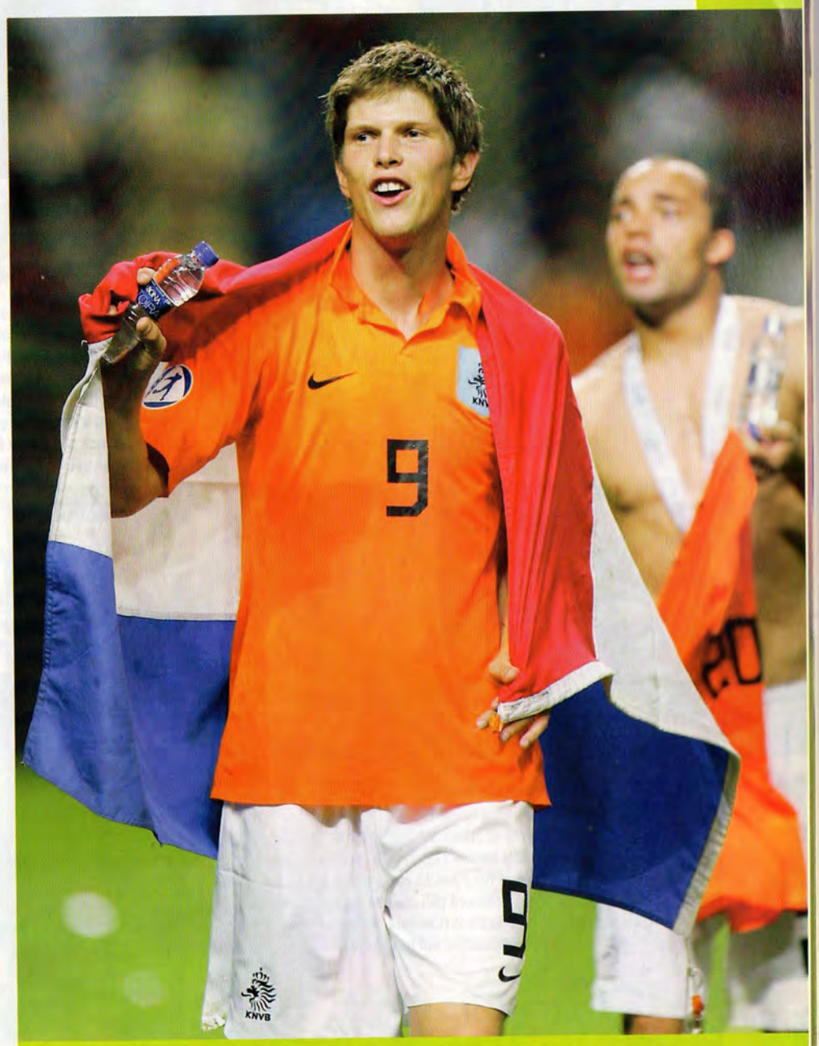
Huntelaar, who hails from the De Achtenhoek region of eastern Holland, made his pro debut for PSV Eindhoven at 19, but never enjoyed the full confidence of his coaches there and was sent out on loan in the 2002-03 and 2003-04 seasons to De Graafschap and Apeldoorn respectively.

He was a sensation at the latter, scoring 26 times to win the Second Division Golden Boot. Yet PSV were still unsure about him and when they suggested another loan two years ago, Huntelaar quit for Heerenveen, where the goals kept coming.

Van Nistelrooy and Dane Jon Dahl Tomasson have both used Heerenveen as a staging post to greater glory. Now it's Huntelaar's turn.

FACT FILE

Club Ajax
Country Holland
Born August 12, 1983, in Drempt
Previous clubs PSV Eindhoven, De Graafschap, Apeldoorn, Heerenveen
Honours European Under-21 Championship 2006; Dutch Cup 2006



Klaas Jan HUNTELAAR

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ANDERSON

THE TEENAGE Brazilian attacking midfielder, a headliner at the 2005 World Under-17 Championship, is constantly mentioned in the same breath as Ronaldinho, and there is nothing gratuitous about the comparisons.

The 18-year-old is similarly intimate with the ball, has the afterburner speed to leave markers trailing in his wake, and makes the scoring of wonder goals look easy.

Anderson, who joined FC Porto from Gremio early this year, needs only a shade more physical toughness and consistency to hit the summit. Porto did not manage to get the best out of Diego, another Brazilian starlet. Anderson should be a different story.

FACT FILE

Club FC Porto (Por)
Country Brazil
Born April 13, 1988, in Porto Alegre
Previous club Gremio

Alberto AQUILANI

OUTSTANDING central midfielder who was one of the successes of Serie A last season. Aquilani established himself as a vital cog in a rejuvenated Roma side and earned plenty of praise for his work with the Italian Under-21s. The 22-year-old is always available to receive a pass, never gives away the ball cheaply, is busy and an exceedingly clean tackler. He does not score often but achieved cult status with the second goal in Roma's 2-0 derby win over Lazio last season. If he continues in this vein, new Italy boss Roberto Donadoni will have to take notice.

FACT FILE

Club Roma
Country Italy
Born July 7, 1984, in Rome

Lucas BIGLIA

SOME MIGHT argue the Argentinian midfielder sold himself short by leaving Independiente for Anderlecht, not one of European football's hot spots. He retorted that a prolonged spell on the bench at a bigger European club was not the best way to develop and, anyway, Anderlecht had every chance of taking part in this season's Champions League.

Biglia, who captained his country to victory in the 2005 World Youth Cup (for Under-20s), is industrious, tactically sharp and a fine passer.

FACT FILE

Club Anderlecht (Blg)
Country Argentina
Born January 30, 1986, in Buenos Aires
Previous clubs Argentinos Juniors, Independiente
Honours World Youth Cup 2005

Isah ELIAKWU

THE DIMINUTIVE, explosive Nigerian striker is often likened to Internazionale front-runner Obafemi Martins, a fellow graduate of Churchill Oliseh's famous soccer academy in the west African state. Like Martins, Eliakwu has a direct style and is very pacy, but those with a finger on the Super Eagles pulse claim the lesser-known player has more technical finesse.

Eliakwu has been based in Italy since the age of 17, playing for the Reggiana and Internazionale youth teams, plus Serie B sides Ascoli and Triestina. He loves to run at defenders from deep, needs no invitation to unleash a fearsome shot at goal and is much cuter than he used to be when making off-the-ball runs, no longer being caught offside so often.

Co-owned by Inter and Triestina, he was excellent for the latter in 2005-06 and looks set for take-off at the top level.

FACT FILE

Club Triestina (Ita)
Country Nigeria
Born October 25, 1985, in Lokoja
Previous clubs Lokoja, FC Ebedei, Reggiana (Ita), Internazionale (Ita), Ascoli (Ita), Triestina (Ita)

Yoann GOURCUFF

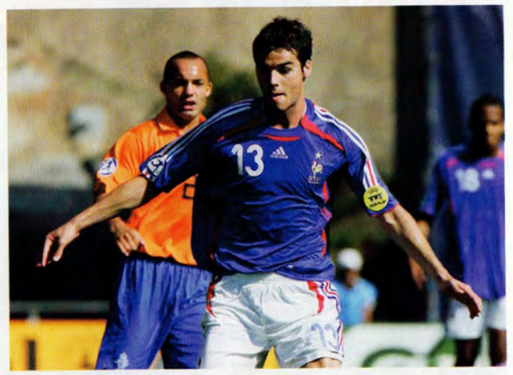
FOOTBALL is second nature to this brilliant French playmaking prospect, whose father Christian was a classy midfielder and libero and is now a highly-respected coach with Second Division Lorient.

Gourcuff junior is elegant, intelligent and two-footed, but not averse to doing his share of graft. He was a stand-out as the French Under-19s won the European title last year, and further polished his growing reputation with a string of fine performances for Rennes.

Milan beat a clutch of top clubs to sign him on a five-year contract, and while it may be a risky move after just 36 top-flight games, Gourcuff has not been dubbed the "new Djorkaeff" for nothing.

FACT FILE

Club Milan (Ita)
Country France
Born July 11, 1986, in Ploemeur
Previous club Rennes
Honours European Under-19 Championship 2005



RICARDO QUARESMA

IT SAYS much for the strength in depth Portugal have on the wings (Figo, Cristiano Ronaldo and Simao) that Luiz Felipe Scolari could overlook the FC Porto star when selecting his World Cup squad.

But Quaresma, 22, had good reason to feel slighted. All season he had been unstoppable, tormenting full-backs with his amazing dribbling and setting up goal after goal. Indeed, no player in the Portuguese League created more.

Quaresma used to be accused of excessive individualism and failing to track back. Under the iron-fist stewardship of Porto coach Co Adriaanse, he has succeeded in righting those wrongs.

FACT FILE

Club FC Porto
Country Portugal
Born September 26, 1983, in Lisbon
International debut June 2003, v Bolivia
International caps 5 (0 goals)
Previous clubs Sporting Lisbon, Barcelona (Spa)
Honours World Club Cup 2004, Portuguese League 2006, Portuguese Cup 2006

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Milan STEPANOV

AN UNCOMPLICATED but tremendously effective centre-back whose keen sense of anticipation, strength in the air and meaty challenges were at the heart of Serbia's march to the semi-finals of the 2006 European Under-21 tournament in Portugal.

Stepanov came up through the ranks of Vojvodina in his home city, Novi Sad, making his first-team debut at 17 and winning the captain's armband last term. He was not skipper for long, however, moving to Turkish side Trabzonspor in January.

Along with Manchester United's Nemanja Vidic, Stepanov should form the core of the Serbia back line for many years.

FACT FILE

Club Trabzonspor (Tur)
Country Serbia
Born April 2, 1983, in Novi Sad
Previous club Vojvodina

Piotr TROCHOWSKI

GERMANY'S third-place finish at the World Cup owed much to the goals of Poland-born strikers Miroslav Klose and Lukas Podolski. In four years' time, they could be just as dependent on another player from a similar background.

The diminutive Trochowski, born in the Polish town of Tczew, is not the first to have found the competition for places too hot to handle at Bayern Munich, only to subsequently flourish elsewhere. Since heading north to Hamburg in January 2005, he has proved himself one of the Bundesliga's best providers, brimming over with imagination, always probing and able to conjure up killer through balls with either foot. Trochowski is very much in the vein of former German mini-stars Pierre Littbarski and Thomas Hassler.

FACT FILE

Club Hamburg
Country Germany
Born March 22, 1984, in Tczew, Poland
Previous clubs Bilstedt Horn, Concordia Hamburg, St Pauli, Bayern Munich

Efrain VALDEZ

THE TEENAGE Mexican midfielder's decision to trade Pumas UNAM for Barcelona early this year could be beneficial not only to himself but also the senior national team. After all, Mexico captain Rafael Marquez attributed the failure to go beyond the second round of the World Cup to the relatively small number of his compatriots playing in Europe.

It is no foregone conclusion that Valdez will find a niche for himself at Barca, whose youth ranks also feature fellow Mexican fledglings Giovanni Dos Santos and Jorge Hernandez. But as he proved when helping Mexico's Under-17s strike gold at the 2005 World Championship in Peru, he is a substantial talent, impressive in his delicate ball control, awareness, passing and versatility.

FACT FILE

Club Barcelona (Spa)
Country Mexico
Born February 22, 1987, in Mexico City
Previous club Pumas UNAM
Honours World Under-17 Championship 2005

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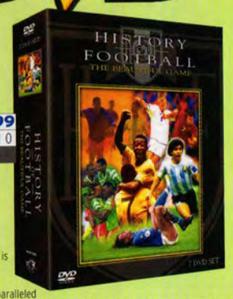

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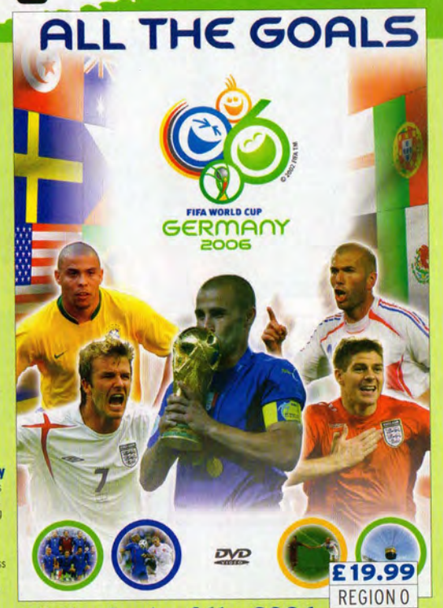

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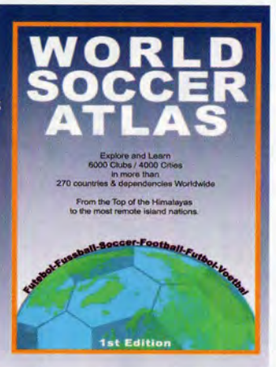

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WS75989 Emerald Blake · WS75954 Destiny Deane · WS75968 Sexy Schoolgirl · WS75969 Hot Secretary
WS75950 Watch me Slip · WS75952 Watch me take off dress · WS75955 Cheeky Maid · WS75957 Hottest Nurse Ever

footballers' wives

Mrs Cole WS57505 · WS59083 Mrs Ronaldo · WS59085 Mrs Sheringham · WS59082 Mrs Pires · WS59084 Mrs Rooney · Mrs Totti WS57505

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FOOTBALL'S BIGGEST & MOST RESPECTED RESULTS SECTION

WORLD SERVICE

In contention...Mexico's Guillermo Franco shields the ball from Patrick Vieira of France during the May 27 friendly

INTERNATIONALS

FRIENDLIES

Saturday, May 27

May 27 - Chicago, USA
Colombia 0
Romania 0
Att: 15,000. **Ref:** Hall (USA)
Colombia: Cordoba - Pachon, Perea, Orozco, Passo (Velez 73), Viafara, Patino (Moreno 42), Castrillon, Soto (Guarin 66), Murillo, Rodallega (Yanes 79).
Romania: Lobont - Contra (Badoi 76), Tamas, Goian, Stoica, Radoi, O Petre, Nicolita, Cocis (M Niculae 73), Buga (Balan 52), D Niculae.

May 27 - Aarhus
Denmark 1 (Tomasson 51)
Paraguay 1 (Cardozo 20)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 20,047. **Ref:** Bennett (Eng)
Denmark: Christiansen - Jacobsen, Svensson, Helveg, Kristiansen, Gravesen (Stokholm 84), Poulsen (D Jensen 46), Gronkjaer (Silberbauer 72), Tomasson (Larsen 84), Jorgensen, Skoubo (Perez 67).
Paraguay: Bobadilla - Caniza (J C Caceres 79), Da Silva, Manzur, Nunez, Acuna, Dos Santos (Paredes 58), Gavilan (Bonet 66), Montiel (Riveros 72), Cardozo (Cabanas 56), Cuevas.

May 27 - Saint-Denis
France 1 (Malouda 45)
Mexico 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 80,000. **Ref:** Daami (Tun)
France: Barthez - Sagnol, Thuram (Boumsong 50), Gallas (Silvestre 46), Abidal, Vieira (Wiltord 46), Makelele (Diarra 48), Malouda, Zidane (Dhorasoo 52), Trezeguet (Ribery 74), Cisse.
Mexico: O Sanchez - Suarez (F Rodriguez 65), Marquez (Torrado 74), Osorio, Salcido, Pineda (R Morales 46), Castro, Pardo, L Perez (Naelson 46), Franco (Bravo 46), Borgetti (Arellano 67).

May 27 - Altenkirchen, Germany
Georgia 1 (S Arveladze 41)
New Zealand 3 (Coveny 35, 53, Killen 37)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 1,000
New Zealand: Moss - Hickey, Hay, Old, Bouckenooghe, Vicelich, Mulligan (Webster 75), Christie, Bertos, Killen (De Gregorio 90), Coveny (Smith 62).

May 27 - Freiburg
Germany 7 (Klose 5, 59, Frings pen 19, Podolski 36, pen 65, Neuville 90, 90)
Luxembourg 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 23,000. **Ref:** Rogalla (Swi)
Germany: Lehmann (Kahn 46) - Friedrich, Huth (Mertesacker 46), Metzelder, Jansen (Hitzlsperger 46), Schneider, Frings (Kehl 46), Borowski, Schweinsteiger, Klose (Asamoah 63), Podolski (Neuville 71).
Luxembourg: Oberweis - Reiter (Schnell 26), Heinz (Federspiel 71), Hoffmann, Mutsch, C Leweck (Kitenge 74), Peters, Strasser, Remy, A Leweck (De Sousa Moreira 55), Huss (Joachim 26).

May 27 - Rotterdam
Holland 1 (Van Nistelrooy 23)
Cameroon 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 46,228. **Ref:** Plautz (Aut)
Holland: Van der Sar - Kromkamp, Ooijer, Mathijsen, Van Bronckhorst, Van Bommel, Sneijder, Cocu (Landzaat 78), Van Persie, Van Nistelrooy (Kuijt 75), Robben (Babel 82).
Cameroon: Kameni - Bikey, Perrier-Doumbe (M'Bia 70), Atouba (Ateba Bilayi 46), Saidoo, Geremi, Makoun, Olembe, Kome, Webo (Meyong Ze 46), Douala (Feutchine 73). *Sent off: Saidoo 83min.*

May 27 - Evora
Portugal 4 (Pauleta 1, 38, 83, Petit 60)
Cape Verde Islands 1 (Fernando Meira og 21)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Van Egmond (Hol)
Portugal: Ricardo - Miguel, Fernando Meira, Ricardo Carvalho, Caneira (Paulo Ferreira 46), Petit (Tiago 65), Maniche (Costinha 46), Deco (Hugo Viana 46), Figo (Simao 46), Cristiano Ronaldo (Helder Postiga 62), Pauleta.
Cape Verde Islands: Ernesto (Veiga 86) - Janicio, Nelson Veiga, Ze Piguita, Nando, Sandro, Vitor Moreno (Nene 52), Emerson (Marco 85), Lito (Hernani 80), Calo (Rodolfo Lima 61), Cafu (Dady 72).

May 27 - Belgrade
Serbia & Montenegro 1 (Stankovic 17)
Uruguay 1 (Godin 82)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Kos (Sln)
Serbia & Montenegro: Jevric - Duljaj, Gavrancic, Krstajic (Vidic 63), Dragutinovic, Koroman (Ljuboja 68), Nadj, P Djordjevic, Stankovic (Ilic 79), Kezman (Ergic 74), Milosevic (Zigic 56).
Uruguay: Carini - Andres, Valdez, Godin, Lopez, Pouzo, Pereyra, Giacomazzi, Estoyanoff (Surraco 90), Abreu (Olivera 61), Vargas.

May 27 - Albacete
Spain 0
Russia 0
Att: 20,000. **Ref:** Ferreira (Por)
Spain: Casillas - Sergio Ramos, Pablo, Puyol, Antonio Lopez (Joaquin 72), Albelda (Xabi Alonso 46), Fabregas (Xavi 46), Marcos Senna (Iniesta 46), Fernando Torres, Villa (Reyes 62), Luis Garcia (Raul 46).
Russia: Akinfeev - A Berezutsky (Zyryanov 63), Ignashevich, V Berezutsky, Smertin, Aldonin (Semak 73), Loskov, Bilyaletdinov (Kirichenko 90), Anyukov, Arshavin (Titov 46), Kerzhakov (Sychev 46).

May 27 - Basle
Switzerland 1 (Barnetta 32)
Ivory Coast 1 (Fae 47)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Vuorela (Fin)
Switzerland: Zuberbuhler - Behrami (D Degen 77), Muller (Grichting 29), Senderos, Magnin, Gygax (P Degen 46), Vogel (Dzemaili 67), Cabanas, Barnetta (Wicky 46), Frei, Streller.
Ivory Coast: Barry - Zoro, Meite, Domoraud, Boka (Kouassi 46), Zokora (Fae 46), Keita (Yapi Yapo 46), Y Toure, Akale (Demel 80), Drogba (B Kone 65), Kalou (A Kone 65).

May 27 - Graz, Austria
Wales 2 (Earnshaw 38, 87)
Trinidad & Tobago 1 (S John 32)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Messner (Aut)
Wales: Brown (Garner 46) - Robinson, Ledley, Gabbidon, J Collins, Partridge (Nyatanga 46), Fletcher (Crofts 46), Cotterill (C Davies 46), S Davies (A Davies 78), Vaughan (Bale 55), Earnshaw.
Trinidad & Tobago: Jack - Gray, Lawrence, Andrews (Samuel 35), A John, Edwards, Birchall, Yorke, Theobald (Whitley 77), Jones (Latapy 62), S John.

Sunday, May 28

May 28 - Osijek
Croatia 2 (Prso 31, Babic pen 90)
Iran 2 (Karimi 21, Borhani 81)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 19,000. **Ref:** Siric (Cro)
Croatia: Pletikosa - Simic, R Kovac, Tomas (Tokic 46), Srna (J Leko 64), Tudor (Modric 46), N Kovac (Vranjes 22), Babic, Kranjcar, Klasnic (Balaban 75), Prso (Olic 58).
Iran: Mirzapour - Kaebi, Golmohammadi, Rezaei, Nosrati, Zandi (Bakhtiarizadeh 46), Nekounam (Shojaei 85), Teimoorian, Karimi (Madanchi 46), Hashemian (Borhani 60), Daei (Kazemian 77).

May 28 - Madrid
Macedonia 2 (Maznov 28, Mitreski pen 73)
Ecuador 1 (C Tenorio 18)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 4,000
Macedonia: Nikoloski - Lazarevski, Sedloski, Mitreski, Vajs, Sumulikoski, Grozdanovski (Ivanovski 89), Maznov (Emini 88), Sakiri (Tasevski 71), Jancevski, Naumoski (Stojkov 61).
Ecuador: Villafuerte - Reasco, Hurtado, Espinoza (Perlaza 61), Ambrossi, M Ayovi (Guagua 46), Castillo, Mendez (Urrutia 46), Valencia (Lara 46), C Tenorio (De la Cruz 64), Delgado (Kaviedes 46).

May 28 - Paris
Morocco 0
Mali 1 (Kanoute 70)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Garibian (Fra)
Morocco: Lamyaghri - El-Karkouri, Ouaddou, Benaskar, Regragui (Alla 75), Mahdoufi, Sektioui (Ajeddou 69), Mesloub (Ramzi 59), Madihi (Souari 46), Aboub (Diane 86), Armoumen (Lembarki 59).
Mali: S Diakite - Thiam, Tamboura, Diamoutene, Kone, A Diakite, Sissoko, Toure, Kanoute (Bagayoko 90), Coulibaly (Keita 86), Diabate.

May 28 - Hamburg, Germany
Turkey 1 (Gokhan Unal 53)
Estonia 1 (Neemelo 87)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Weiner (Ger)
Turkey: Rustu - Mehmet Topuz, Can, Gokhan Zan, Murat Ocak, Gokdeniz (Hamit Altintop 46), Fahri, Burak (Nuri 46), Ibrahim Akin (Hasan Kabze 46), Nihat (Gokhan Unal 46), Halil Altintop (Bilal 73).
Estonia: Poom - Allas, Stepanov, Jaager, Kruglov, Terehhov (Smirnov 58), Reim (Gusev 81), Dmitrijev, Klavan, Lindpere (Zahhovaiko 64), Viikmae (Neemelo 81).

May 28 - Kiev
Ukraine 4 (Nazarenko 27, Vorobei 33, Kalinichenko 38, Bielik 56)
Costa Rica 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Ivanov (Rus)
Ukraine: Shovkovskyi (Shust 46) - Sviderskyi (Husiev 46), Vaschuk, Rusol, Nesmachnyi (Yezerskyi 46), Tymoshchuk (Husin 46), Nazarenko (Shelaiev 60), Kalinichenko, Vorobei, Rotan (Voronin 46), Bielik.
Costa Rica: Alfaro - Marin (Umana 46; Hernandez 58), Fonseca, Bolanos, Centeno (Azofeifa 46), Gomez (Bernard 46), Wallace (Drummond 71), Badilla, Saborio (Wanchope 58), Sequeira, Rodriguez.

May 28 - East Hartford
United States 1 (McBride 43)
Latvia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 24,636. **Ref:** Dipiero (Can)
United States: Keller - Cherundolo, Pope, Conrad, Lewis, Mastroeni (Bradley 83), Beasley, O'Brien (Convey 66), Donovan, McBride, Johnson (Ching 83).
Latvia: Kolinko - Zirnis, Smirnovs, Klava, Ivanovs, Astafjevs, Laizans (Visnakovs 70), Rubins (Kalnins 83), Solonicins (Morozs 46), Verpakovskis, Prohorenkovs (Karlsons 46).

Monday, May 29

May 29 - Leicester, England
Jamaica 1 (Euell 58)
Ghana 4 (Muntari 5, Damion Stewart og 19, Appiah 66, Amoah 68)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Halsey (Eng)
Jamaica: Ricketts (S Sawyers 86) - C Davis, Damion Stewart, G Reid, Daley, Stephenson (Morrison 82), Euell, Crawford, Campbell-Ryce (J Johnson 63), Shelton (Fuller 46), King (Bennett 82).
Ghana: Adjei - Quaye, Mohamed, Mensah, Kuffour (Illiasu 79), Essien (Boateng 81), E Addo (Sarpei 74), Appiah (O Addo 84), Muntari (Dramani 88), Gyan, Amoah (Pimpong 81).

Tuesday, May 30

May 30 - Salerno, Italy
Argentina 2 (Rodriguez 28, Sorin 36)
Angola 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 7,000. **Ref:** Farina (Ita)
Argentina: Abbondanzieri - Burdisso (Cufre 82), Ayala, Heinze (G Millito 63), Sorin, Rodriguez (Tevez 76), Mascherano, Cambiasso (Aimar 76), Riquelme (Scaloni 63), Crespo, Saviola (Messi 63).
Angola: Joao Ricardo - Kali, Jamba, Loco, Marco Abreu (Delgado 79), Andre, Figueiredo (Miloy 64), Mendonca (Buengo 74), Edson (Ze Kalanga 56), Mateus (Mantorras 48), Akwa (Flavio 66).

May 30 - Jablonec nad Nisou
Czech Republic 1 (Lokvenc 82)
Costa Rica 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 6,244. **Ref:** Bede (Hun)
Czech Republic: Blazek - Jiranek (Grygera 46), Kovac, Rozehnal, Mares (Jankulovski 46), Jarolim (Sionko 46), Polak (Poborsky 46), Heinz, Plasil, Stajner (Baros 46), Koller (Lokvenc 71).
Costa Rica: Mesen - Martinez (Drummond 67), Umana, Sequeira, Marin, Fonseca, Solis (Azofeifa 67), Centeno (Bolanos 78), Gonzalez (Badilla 67), Wanchope (Bernard 87), Gomez (Nunez 78).

May 30 - Manchester
England 3 (Gerrard 47, Terry 51, Crouch 84)
Hungary 1 (Dardai 55)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 56,323. **Ref:** Vink (Hol)
England: Robinson - G Neville (Hargreaves 46), Ferdinand, Terry (Campbell 76), A Cole, Carragher, Beckham, Lampard, J Cole, Gerrard (Crouch 65), Owen (Walcott 65).
Hungary: Kiraly - Feher, Komlosi (Vanczak 8), Halmosi, Eger, Molnar (Vadocz 82), Huszti, Dardai, Gera, Toth (Torghelle 62), Szabics (Polonkai 73).

May 30 - Leverkusen
Germany 2 (Klose 75, Schweinsteiger 80)
Japan 2 (Takahara 57, 65)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 22,500. **Ref:** Vassaras (Gre)
Germany: Lehmann - Schneider, Mertesacker, Metzelder (Nowotny 55), Jansen, Ballack, Frings, Borowski (Odonkor 63), Schweinsteiger, Klose, Podolski (Neuville 70).
Japan: Kawaguchi - Tsuboi, Miyamoto, Nakazawa, Kaji (Komano 39), H Nakata, Fukunishi, Alex, Nakamura, Yanagisawa (Tamada 80), Takahara (Oguro 78).

May 30 - Vittel, France
Ivory Coast 1 (Dindane pen 70)
Chile 1 (Suazo pen 77)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Lamarre (Fra)
Ivory Coast: Tizie - Eboue, Kouassi, K Toure (Fae 46), Boka, A Kone (Kalou 67), Y Toure, Zokora, N'Dri (B Kone 58), Keita, Drogba (Dindane 46). *Sent off: Zokora 71min.*
Chile: Pinto - J Contreras, R Rojas, Fuentes, Olarra (Jara 46), Cisternas (Valdivia 53), J Acuna (Iturra 46; P Contreras 79), Zenteno, Valdes (J Vargas 60), Jimenez (Suazo 68), Galaz (Sanchez 70).

May 30 - Chorzow
Poland 1 (Jelen 90)
Colombia 2 (Murillo 19, Martinez 63)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Szabo (Hun)
Poland: Boruc (Kuszczak 46) - Baszczynski (Dudka 85), Jop, Bak, Michal Zewlakow, Kosowski (Rasiak 46), Sobolewski (Radomski 46), Szymkowiak, Krzynowek, Zurawski (Brozek 82), Smolarek (Jelen 65).
Colombia: Martinez - Pachon, Orozco, Nasera, Arizala (Passo 71), Guarin (Velez 77), Castrillon (Viafara 43), Vargas (Valencia 67), Murillo (Patino 46), Yanes (M Moreno 67), J Moreno.

Wednesday, May 31

May 31 - Tallinn
Estonia 1 (Klavan 3)
New Zealand 1 (Hay 27)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 3,000. **Ref:** Rasmussen (Den)
Estonia: Kotenko - Allas, Stepanov, Jaager, Kruglov, Dmitrijev, Viikmae (Terehhov 75), Lindpere, Neemelo, Zahhovaiko (Vassiljev 66), Klavan.
New Zealand: Nicholson - Bouckenooghe, Bunce, Hay, Wilson, Vicelich, Smith (Brockie 46), De Gregorio (Christie 65), Mulligan (Barron 82), Webster (Bertos 46), Killen (Coveny 82).

May 31 - Lens
France 2 (Henry 13, Wiltord pen 76)
Denmark 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Kelly (Ire)
France: Barthez - Sagnol (Chimbonda 89), Thuram, Gallas, Abidal (Silvestre 83), Vieira, Makelele, Malouda, Zidane (Ribery 66), Henry (Cisse 79), Saha (Wiltord 58).
Denmark: Christiansen - Helveg, Kroldrup (Jacobsen 64), Kristiansen (Jepsen 77), Priske, Gravesen, Silberbauer, D Jensen (Larsen 72), Poulsen, Jorgensen, Tomasson (Perez 87).

May 31 - Dornbirn, Austria
Georgia 0
Paraguay 1 (Haedo Valdez 40)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 2,000. **Ref:** Gangle (Aut)
Georgia: Lomaia - Kaladze, Menteshashvili (Kvirkvelia 79), Salukvadze (Gogua 63), Khizanishvili, Kandelaki, Asatiani (Mujiri 71), Kankava, Aladashvili (Demetradze 63), Martsvaladze (A Iashvili 71), S Arveladze.
Paraguay: Villar - Toledo (Nunez 81), Gamarra, J C Caceres, Caniza, Cuevas, Bonet, Riveros (Barreto 58), Paredes, Acuna (Dos Santos 58), Haedo Valdez.

May 31 - Tehran
Iran 5 (Madanchi 25, Rezaei 45, Hashemian 45, Enayati 88, Khatibi 90)
Bosnia-Herzegovina 2 (Misomovic 5, Barbarez 17)
HT: 3-2. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Mohd Salleh (Mly)
Iran: Mirzapour (Roudbarian 46) - Kaebi (Sadeghi 74), Golmohammadi (Zare 46), Rezaei, Nosrati, Bakhtiarizadeh (Shojaei 46), Nekounam, Teimoorian, Madanchi, Hashemian (Enayati 68), Daei (Khatibi 68).
Bosnia-Herzegovina: Mitrovic - Vidic, Bajic (Grlic 36), Bajramovic, Papac, Bartolovic (Vladavic 59), Hrgovic (Milenkovic 60), Vasiljevic (Ibricic 63), Halilovic (Silic 79), Barbarez (Jelic 46), Misimovic.

May 31 - Singapore
Singapore 0
Malaysia 0
Att: 18,604. **Ref:** Li (Chn)
Singapore 5-4 on pens
Singapore: Lewis - Rahman, Emuejeraye, Iskandar, Bennett, Muhammad (Shahul Hameed 53), Fahrudin, Ishak (Halim 87), Amri, Alam Shah (Manzur 65), Daud (Khamaruddin 33).
Malaysia: Syamsuri - Fauzie (Fadzli 79), Norhafiz, Khaironnisam, Rosdi, Rezal (Veeran 51), Hardi, Kaliappan (Norhisham 70), Padathan (Indra 51), Safee, Rudie (Nor Farhan 61).

May 31 - Celje
Slovenia 3 (Novakovic 4, 16, 77)
Trinidad & Tobago 1 (Birchall 26)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 2,500. **Ref:** Tanovic (Ser)
Slovenia: B Mavric - Kokot, Ilic, M Mavric, Zavrl (Birsa 70), Komac (Semler 56), Koren, Zlogar (Sukalo 82), Ceh (Jokic 86), Novakovic (Rusic 87), Lavric (Acimovic 52).
Trinidad & Tobago: Hislop - Gray, Lawrence, A John, Whitley (Wise 69), Birchall, Theobald, Edwards (Sancho 46), Yorke, Scotland, S John.

May 31 - Geneva
Switzerland 1 (Gygax 32)
Italy 1 (Gilardino 10)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Sippel (Ger)
Switzerland: Zuberbuhler (Coltorti 46) - P Degen, Djourou, Senderos (Grichting 71), Magnin (Spycher 46), Barnetta, Cabanas (Margairaz 46), Vogel, Wicky (H Yakin 62), Frei, Gygax (D Degen 90).
Italy: Buffon - Zaccardo, Cannavaro, Materazzi (Oddo 46), Grosso (Bonera 60), Pirlo (Perrotta 75), Gattuso, Camoranesi (De Rossi 46), Totti, Del Piero (Iaquinta 46), Gilardino (Toni 46).

May 31 - Offenbach, Germany
Turkey 1 (Necati 59)
Saudi Arabia 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Fleischer (Ger)
Turkey: Volkan - Hamit Altintop, Gokhan Zan, Can, Murat Ocak, Mehmet Topuz, Huseyin (Nuri 82), Necati (Fahri 84), Tuncay (Servet 90), Nihat (Halil Altintop 73), Gokhan Unal (Hasan Kabze 46).
Saudi Arabia: Zaid - A D Al-Dosari (Al-Bahri 82), Tukar, Al-Montashari, Sulaimani, Noor, Al-Thaker, Al-Khariri, Al-Ghamdi, Al-Temyat (Al-Anbar 66), Al-Qahtani (Al-Jaber 75).

Thursday, June 1

June 1 - Eindhoven
Holland 2 (Heitinga 53, Babel 57)
Mexico 1 (Borgetti 19)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Frojdfeldt (Swe)
Holland: Timmer (Stekelenburg 46) - Kromkamp, Boulahrouz, Heitinga, De Cler, Landzaat, Maduro, Sneijder, Van Persie (Vennegoor of Hesselink 46), Kuijt, Babel.
Mexico: Sanchez - Castro (Arellano 64), Osorio, Marquez, Salcido, Pineda (Suarez 64), Fonseca (Garcia 46), Pardo (Torrado 46), Bravo (Morales 46), Franco (Naelson 46), Borgetti.

June 1 - Oslo
Norway 0
South Korea 0
Att: 15,487. **Ref:** Verbist (Blg)
Norway: Myhre - Hoiland, Rambekk, Hangeland, Riise, Stromstad (Grindheim 60), Andresen, Svindal Larsen, Gamst Pedersen, Carew (Arst 70), F Johnsen.
South Korea: Lee Woon-jae (Kim Young-kwang 38) - Choi Jin-cheul (Kim Young-chul 80), Kim Jin-kyu, Kim Do-heon, Lee Young-pyo, Baek Ji-hoon, Kim Sang-shik, Song Chong-gug (Kim Dong-jin 46), Chung Kyung-ho, Ahn Jung-hwan (Cho Jae-jin 46), Seol Ki-hyeon.

Friday, June 2

June 2 - Monchengladbach
Germany 3 (Ballack 20, Schweinsteiger 37, Borowski 69)
Colombia 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Hauge (Nor)
Germany: Lehmann - Friedrich, Mertesacker, Metzelder, Lahm (Hitzlsperger 86), Schneider (Borowski 62), Ballack, Frings (Kehl 71), Schweinsteiger (Jansen 73), Klose (Neuville 61), Podolski (Asamoah 71).
Colombia: Cordoba - Pachon, Orozco, Perea, Arizala, Viafara (Castrillon 53), Vargas (Valencia 76), Patino (Murillo 62), T Moreno (Rodallega 46), Soto (Guarin 77), J Moreno.

June 2 - Lausanne, Switzerland
Italy 0
Ukraine 0
Att: 10,000. **Ref:** Nobs (Swi)
Italy: Buffon - Oddo, Nesta (Barzagli 61), Cannavaro (Materazzi 75), Grosso, De Rossi, Pirlo (Perrotta 59), Camoranesi (Barone 69), Del Piero (Totti 59), Toni (Inzaghi 59), Gilardino.
Ukraine: Shovkovskyi - Yezerskyi, Vaschuk, Rusol, Nesmachnyi, Tymoshchuk (Shelaiev 88), Husin (Sviderskyi 90), Rotan (Nazarenko 73), Kalinichenko (Bielik 55), Vorobei, Voronin.

June 2 - Vaduz
Liechtenstein 0
Togo 1 (Cougbadja 52)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 2,700. **Ref:** Schorgenhofer
Liechtenstein: Jehle - Telser, D'Elia, Hasler, Ritzberger, R Beck (Vogt 46), Martin Stocklasa, R Buchel (M Buchel 71), Burgmeier (Rohrer 14), T Beck (D Frick 79), Fischer (Kieber 84).
Togo: Agassa - Tchangai, Abalo, Nibombe, Assemoassa (Forson 74), Senaya (Dossevi 39), Aziawonou (M Salifou 46), Romao, Mamam, Adebayor, Cougbadja.

June 2 - Stockholm
Sweden 1 (Larsson 32)
Chile 1 (Suazo 51)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 34,735. **Ref:** Stark (Ger)
Sweden: Isaksson - Alexandersson (M Nilsson 46), Mellberg, Lucic, Edman, Linderoth, Wilhelmsson (M Jonson 46), A Svensson, Ljungberg (Kallstrom 46), Ibrahimovic, Larsson.
Chile: Bravo - Jara, Vargas, P Contreras, Olarra, Valdivia, Acuna, Zanteno, Jimenez, Sanchez, Suazo (J Contreras 86).

June 2 - Sittard, Holland
Turkey 3 (Necati 53, Nihat 71, Halil Altintop 85)
Angola 2 (Akwa 31, Love 83)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Wegereef (Hol)
Turkey: Rustu - Hamit Altintop (Servet 90), Can, Gokhan Zan, Murat Ocak, Huseyin (Fahri 46), Mehmet Topuz, Necati (Gokdeniz 77), Tuncay (Ugur 46), Nihat (Halil Altintop 72), Hasan Kabze (Nuri 46).
Angola: Joao Ricardo - Jamba, Kali, Delgado, Loco, Figueiredo (Edson 61), Andre, Mendonca (Marco Airosa 81), Ze Kalanga, Mateus (Mantorras 81), Akwa (Love 66).

Saturday, June 3

June 3 - Prague
Czech Republic 3 (Koller 6, 40, Nedved 22)
Trinidad & Tobago 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 15,910. **Ref:** Johannesson (Swe)
Czech Republic: Cech - Grygera, Rozehnal, Ujfalusi, Jankulovski (Mares 79), Poborsky (Stajner 62), Polak (Heinz 61), Nedved (Jiranek 82), Plasil, Baros (Sionko 46), Koller (Lokvenc 61).
Trinidad & Tobago: Jack - Gray, Andrews, Lawrence, A John (Charles 46), Edwards (Jones 69), Birchall (Whitley 46), Yorke, Theobald (Wolfe 77), Samuel, S John.

June 3 - Manchester
England 6 (Lampard 11, Taylor og 17, Crouch 29, 65, 89, Owen 32)
Jamaica 0
HT: 4-0. **Att:** 70,373. **Ref:** Plautz (Aut)
England: Robinson (James 46) - Carragher, Ferdinand, Terry (Campbell 35), A Cole (Bridge 33), Beckham (Lennon 66), Gerrard (Downing 77), Lampard (Carrick 66), J Cole, Crouch, Owen.
Jamaica: Ricketts - G Reid, C Davis, Damion Stewart, Daley, Hue (J Johnson 85), Taylor (Crawford 46), Euell (Stephenson 78), Campbell-Ryce, Shelton (Burton 47), Fuller (Bennett 76).

June 3 - Metz, France
Luxembourg 0
Portugal 3 (Simao 47, pen 72, Figo 85)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 19,157. **Ref:** Duhamel (Fra)
Luxembourg: Joubert - Reiter, Hoffmann, Ferreira, Mutsch, C Leweck (A Leweck 57), Peters (Lombardelli 90), Strasser, Remy, Schnell (Federspiel 71), Joachim (Huss 86).
Portugal: Ricardo - Miguel, Fernando Meira (Ricardo Costa 58), Ricardo Carvalho, Nuno Valente, Costinha (Petit 46), Maniche (Tiago 67), Figo, Deco (Simao 46), Cristiano Ronaldo (Hugo Viana 70), Pauleta (Helder Postiga 46).

June 3 - Macao
Macao 0
Hong Kong 0

In between...New Zealand's Chris Killen and Juan of Brazil vie for possession during the June 4 friendly

June 3 - Paroi
Malaysia 0
Singapore 0
Singapore 8-7 on pens
Malaysia: Azizon - Fauzie, Norhafiz, Khaironnisam, Rosdi (Mat 62), Rezal (Veeran 62), Hardi, Kaliappan (Norhisham 67), Gunalan (Nor Farhan 50), Safee (Fadzli 81), Indra.
Singapore: Lewis - Subramani (Jantan 87), Emuejeraye, Iskandar, Bennett, Khamaruddin, Fahrudin, Halim (Rahman 81), Ishak, Amri (Shahul Hameed 64), Alam Shah.

June 3 - Wolfsburg, Germany
Poland 1 (Smolarek 54)
Croatia 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Meyer (Ger)
Poland: Boruc - Baszczynski, Jop, Bak (Bosacki 76), Michal Zewlakow, Smolarek (Jelen 83), Sobolewski (Lewandowski 85), Szymkowiak (Miila 64), Radomski, Krzynowek (Kosowski 73), Zurawski (Rasiak 90).
Croatia: Butina - Simic (Tokic 87), R Kovac, Simunic, Srna (I Leko 46), Vranjes (J Leko 63), Kranjcar (Bosnjak 46), Modric (Balaban 73), Babic, Klasnic, Olic (Bulat 46).

June 3 - Elche
Spain 2 (Raul 14, Reyes 56)
Egypt 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 38,000. **Ref:** Farina (Ita)
Spain: Casillas - Sergio Ramos, Pablo (Juanito 85), Puyol, Antonio Lopez, Albelda (Xavi 46), Marcos Senna (Xabi Alonso 46), Fabregas (Iniesta 70), Raul (Luis Garcia 63), Fernando Torres, Villa (Reyes 46).
Egypt: El-Hadary - Abdel Wahab (Abu Moslem 76), El-Nahhas, El-Saqqa (Ali 70), Gomaa, Abd Rabou, Barakat (Fathi 65), Shawki, A Hassan, Aboutraika (Hamza 84), Moteab (Gaafar 84).

June 3 - Zurich
Switzerland 4 (Frei 40, pen 49, Streller 47, 73)
China 1 (Dong Fangzhuo 90)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 16,000. **Ref:** Stokes (Ire)
Switzerland: Zuberbuhler (Benaglio 46) - Behrami (P Degen 42), Muller (H Yakin 71), Grichting, Magnin, D Degen, Cabanas (Dzemaili 63), Vogel (Margairaz 46), Wicky (Spycher 46), Frei, Streller.
China: Li Leilei - Xu Yunlong (Zhang Yaokun 80), Ji Mingyi, Li Weifeng, Cao Yang, Xu Liang (Yan Song 66), Gao Lin (Shi Jun 56), Zheng Zhi (Zhao Xuri 75), Zhao Junzhe (Li Tie 80), Han Peng (Dong Fangzhuo 56), Li Jinyu.

Sunday, June 4

June 4 - Algiers
Algeria 1 (Daham 49)
Sudan 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Harzi (Tun)
Algeria: Gaouaoui - Hamdoud, Maiza, Diss, Achiou, Mezouar, Moumen, Aissa (Hanister 76), Metref, Yacef (Daoud 46), Daham (Djediat 60).

June 4 - Geneva, Switzerland
Brazil 4 (Ronaldo 43, Adriano 51, Kaka 86, Juninho 90)
New Zealand 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 32,000. **Ref:** Laperriere (Swi)
Brazil: Dida - Cafu (Cicinho 75), Lucio, Juan, Roberto Carlos (Gilberto 64), Emerson (Gilberto Silva 64), Ze Roberto (Juninho 64), Kaka, Ronaldinho (Ricardinho 75), Adriano, Ronaldo (Robinho 46).
New Zealand: Moss - Bouckenooghe, Old, Hay (Bunce 25; De Gregorio 82), Hickey, Bertos (James 86), Christie (Brown 66), Mulligan (Smith 60), Vicelich, Coveny (Brockie 76), Killen.

June 4 - Edinburgh
Ghana 3 (Gyan pen 37, Muntari 63, Essien 81)
South Korea 1 (Lee Eul-yong 50)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** McDonald (Sco)
Ghana: Kingston (Adjei 46) - Paintsil, Mensah, Illiasu, Pappoe, Appiah, Essien, E Addo, Muntari, Gyan, Amoah (Pimpong 81).
South Korea: Lee Woon-jae - Kim Young-chul, Kim Jin-kyu (Kim Sang-shik 51), Lee Young-pyo, Song Chong-gug, Lee Eul-yong (Kim Nam-Il 81), Lee Ho, Park Ji-sung, Lee Chun-soo, Park Chu-young (Seol Ki-hyeon 81), Ahn Jung-hwan (Cho Jae-jin 46).

June 4 - Rotterdam
Holland 1 (Van Nistelrooy 9)
Australia 1 (Cahill 54)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 49,000. **Ref:** Dean (Eng)
Holland: Van der Sar - Ooijer, Mathijsen, Kromkamp (Heitinga 46), Van Bronckhorst (Kuijt 64), Van Bommel, Sneijder (Landzaat 50), Cocu (Maduro 37), Van Persie, Van Nistelrooy, Robben.
Australia: Schwarzer - Moore, Neill, Chipperfield, Culina, Grella, Wilkshire, Emerton, Sterjovski (Cahill 51), Bresciano (Thompson 67), Viduka (Aloisi 65). *Sent off: Wilkshire 61min.*

June 4 - Dusseldorf, Germany
Malta 0
Japan 1 (Tamada 2)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Kircher (Ger)
Malta: Haber - Clantar, Wellman, Bajada (Mallia 69), Dimech, G Agius (A Agius 80), Schembri (Mattocks 64), Sammut, Cohen (Cilia 88), Azzopardi, Pace.
Japan: Kawaguchi - Komano, Miyamoto, Alex (K Nakata 59), H Nakata, Tamada (Ogasawara 61), Nakamura, Oguro (Maki 69), Fukunishi (Inamoto 69), Tsuboi (Ono 46), Nakazawa.

June 4 - Barcelona
Morocco 0
Colombia 2 (Rodallega pen 41, Soto 86)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 11,000. **Ref:** Segura Garcia (Spa)
Morocco: El-Jarmouni - Regragui (Fallah 88), El-Karkouri (Mesloub 30), Benaskar, El-Moubarki (Diane 65), Mahdoufi (Ajeddou 62), Ramzi, Alla, Abboub, Boussoufa, El-Alobbi.
Colombia: Martinez - Palacio (Soto 60), Perea, De la Cuesta, Velez, Guarin (Patino 77), Viafara (Vargas 46; Valencia 60), Castrillon, Murillo (Arizala 87), Yanes (Moreno 46), Rodallega.

June 4 - Evry-Bondoufle, France
Slovenia 0
Ivory Coast 3 (Drogba 35, 37, Akale 70)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 8,000
Slovenia: B Mavric (Handanovic 46) - Semler (Rusic 80), Ilic, Cipot, Kokot, Sukalo, Zlogar, Acimovic, Birsa (Komac 46; Brecko 57), Lavric (Jokic 46), Novakovic (Matic 86).
Ivory Coast: Tizie - Eboue, Meite, K Toure (Domoraud 65), Boka, Yapi Yapo (Kalou 46), Zokora, Y Toure (Fae 65), Akale (Keita 74), Drogba (N'Dri 78), Dindane (B Kone 65).

June 4 - Krefeld, Germany
Turkey 0
Macedonia 1 (Maznov 80)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 7,000
Turkey: Rustu (Orkun 46) - Can, Gokhan Zan, Ugur (Tuncay 46), Hamit Altintop (Huseyin 46), Caner, Nihat (Gokdeniz 46), Halil Altintop, Fahri (Burak 86), Mehmet Topuz, Nuri (Hasan Kabze 78).
Macedonia: Pacovski - Lazarevski, Petrov (Grozdanovski 70), Sedloski, Mitreski, Ivanovski, Sumulikoski, Maznov (Jancevski 89), Vucnet (Tasevski 46), Sakiri (Da Silva 46), Naumoski (Stojkov 46).

Monday, June 5

June 5 - Gossau, Switzerland
Ukraine 3 (Yezerskyi 49, Bielik 87, Vorobei 89)
Libya 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 2,500. **Ref:** Wilzhaber (Swi)
Ukraine: Shovkovskyi (Shust 46) - Yezerskyi, Vaschuk (Sviderskyi 46), Rusol (Husin 46), Nesmachnyi, Shelaiev, Husiev (Tymoshchuk 46), Nazarenko (Rotan 46), Kalinichenko, Voronin (Vorobei 46), Bielik.
Libya: Ghzalla (Agustini 46) - El-Taib (Neuri 77), Sabaai, Alshibani, El-Treki, Hussen, El-Hassi (Osman 71), Hamadi (Kara 63), Al-Tarhoni, El-Mujhraby (Messelattyi 74), Shushan (Slii 58).

Wednesday, June 7

June 7 - Saint-Etienne
France 3 (Trezeguet 31, Wang Yun og 90, Henry 90)
China 1 (Zheng Zhi pen 69)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 34,147. **Ref:** Megia Davila (Spa)
France: Barthez - Sagnol, Thuram, Gallas, Abidal, Vieira (Ribery 75), Makelele, Malouda, Zidane, Henry, Cisse (Trezeguet 13; Wiltord 84).
China: Li Leilei - Xu Yunlong, Ji Mingyi, Zhang Yaokun (Wang Yun 76), Cao Yang, Zhao Xuri, Zheng Zhi, Zhao Junzhe (Jiang Kun 70), Tao Wei (Li Tie 80), Han Peng (Dong Fangzhuo 60), Gao Lin (Hao Junmin 31).

June 7 - Ulm, Germany
Liechtenstein 1 (Neill og 8)
Australia 3 (Sterjovski 20, Kennedy 75, Aloisi 83)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 5,872. **Ref:** Stark (Ger)
Liechtenstein: Jehle - Telser, Hasler, Ritzberger, Martin Stocklasa, Fischer (Rohrer 87), R Buchel, Maierhofer (D Frick 69), D'Elia, T Beck (R Beck 87), M Frick.
Australia: Kalac - Moore (Beauchamp 78), Neill, Popovic, Emerton, Skoko (Sarkies 85), Lazaridis (Thompson 67), Sterjovski (Milligan 85), Cahill (Kilkenny 85), Kewell (Kennedy 59), Aloisi.

June 7 - Geneva, Switzerland
Spain 2 (Pernia 62, Fernando Torres 90)
Croatia 1 (Pablo og 14)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 17,000. **Ref:** Lannoy (Fra)
Spain: Reina (Canizares 46) - Michel Salgado (Sergio Ramos 46), Pablo, Puyol, Pernia, Xavi, Xabi Alonso, Joaquin (Fabregas 73), Reyes (Luis Garcia 46), Villa (Iniesta 62), Raul (Fernando Torres 46).
Croatia: Pletikosa - Simic (Tokic 85), R Kovac (Modric 46), Tudor, Simunic, N Kovac (Vranjes 67), J Leko, Babic, Kranjcar (I Leko 70), Klasnic (Balaban 88), Prso (Bosnjak 74).

Thursday, June 8

June 8 - Luxembourg
Luxembourg 0
Ukraine 3 (Voronin 55, Shevchenko 83, Kalinichenko 84)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Vervecken (Blg)
Luxembourg: Joubert - C Leweck (A Leweck 62), Hoffmann, Reiter, Peters, Ferreira, Joachim (De Sousa 86), Lombardelli, Remy, Mutsch, Schnell.
Ukraine: Shovkovskyi - Yezerskyi (Rotan 46), Rusol, Vaschuk, Nesmachnyi (Sviderskyi 46), Shelaiev, Husin (Nazarenko 46), Husiev, Vorobei (Kalinichenko 63), Rebrov (Shevchenko 58), Bielik (Voronin 46).

Sunday, July 2

July 2 - Almaty
Kazakhstan 4 (Zhumaskaliev 22, Familtsev 40, Kuchma 63, Tleshev 90)
Tajikistan 1 (Saidov 75)
HT: 2-0

Wednesday, July 5

July 5 - Almaty
Kazakhstan 1 (Baltiev pen 20)
Kyrgyzstan 0
HT: 1-0

Thursday, July 6

July 6 - Lilongwe
Malawi 2
Botswana 1
HT: 0-1

Saturday, July 8

July 8 - Blantyre
Malawi 0
Botswana 0
Botswana 3-2 on pens

Saturday, July 15

July 15 - Damascus
Syria 1
Iraq 3
HT: 0-2

July 15 - Lusaka
Zambia 0
Zimbabwe 0

Friday, July 21

July 21 - Amman
Jordan 2 (Saleem 36, Ali 41)
Iraq 1 (Younis 53)
HT: 2-0

Tuesday, July 25

July 25 - Damascus
Syria 1 (Al-Ayed 61)
Iraq 2 (Imad 34, Sudair 60)
HT: 0-1

Thursday, July 27

July 27 - Kigali
Rwanda 1
Uganda 1
HT: 0-0

LG CUP

In Rades, Tunisia

Semi-finals

May 30
Libya 1 (El-Taib 61)
Uruguay 2 (Vigneri 15, Abreu 34)
HT: 0-2
Libya: Agustini - El-Shebai, Alshibani, Osman, El-Mogerbi, El-Hassi, El-Taib, Al-Tarhoni (Hussen 46), El-Masli (Saad 46), El-Treki, Karra (Ferzani 46).
Uruguay: Carini - Fucile (Valdez 72), Scotti, Godin, Lima, Giacomazzi, Pouso, Gonzalez (Gargano 85), Vigneri (Estoyanoff 72), Abreu, Olivera.

May 30
Tunisia 3 (Namouchi pen 34, Santos 46, Jomaa 90)
Belarus 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,000
Tunisia: Boumnijel - Trabelsi, Jaidi, Hagui, Ayari, Mnari, Nafti (Bouazizi 46), Namouchi, Chedli, Santos (Jomaa 72), Jaziri (Essediri 72).
Belarus: Khomutovski - Lensevich, Shtanyuk, Yurevich, Kalachev, Kashevsky (Kulchy 46), Korytko (Kutuzov 63), Kovba (Pankovets 67), Romaschenko (Kontsevoy 62), Kornilenko, Shagoiko (Omelyanchuk 83).

Third-place play-off

June 2
Libya 1 (Osman 90)
Belarus 1 (Shtanyuk 12)
HT: 0-1
Libya 3-1 on pens

Final

June 2
Tunisia 0
Uruguay 0
Uruguay 3-1 on pens
Tunisia: Kasraoui - Yahia (Jaidi 57), Jemmali, Saidi, Meriah, Nafti (Mnari 70), Bouazizi, Ghodhbane, Melliti (Chikhaoui 62), Essediri (Chedli 70), Jomaa (Jaziri 75).
Uruguay: Carini - Scotti, Valdez, Godin, Lopez, Pereira, Pouso, Giacomazzi, Estoyanoff, Vargas, Olivera.

MOZAMBIQUE TOURNAMENT

In Maputo

Semi-finals

June 24
Mozambique 4
Swaziland 0
HT: 2-0

Malawi 1
Zimbabwe XI 1
HT: 1-1
Malawi 2-1 on pens

Third-place play-off

June 25
Swaziland 1
Zimbabwe XI 2
HT: 1-1

Final

June 25
Mozambique 1
Malawi 2

SEYCHELLES TOURNAMENT

In Victoria

June 26
Mauritius 1
Tanzania 2
HT: 1-2

June 28
Seychelles 2
Mauritius 1
HT: 0-0

June 30
Seychelles 2
Tanzania 1
HT: 0-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Seychelles	2	2	0	0	4	2	6
Tanzania	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Mauritius	2	0	0	2	2	4	0

COSAFA CASTLE CUP

Qualifying phase

Group C
In Windhoek, Namibia

SEMI-FINALS
July 22
Malawi 1 (D Phiri 84)
Zambia 3 (Mkhandawire 16, Kalaba 85, Katongo 88)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Katjimune (Nam)

July 22
Namibia 1 (Khaiseb 18)
Seychelles 1 (Brutus 11)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Simisse (Mrs)
Seychelles 4-3 on pens

THIRD-PLACE PLAY-OFF
July 23
Malawi 2 (Chavula 19, Chiapondwa 85)
Namibia 3 (Isaaks 45, Bester 46, Botes pen)
HT: 1-1
Sent off: Msowoya (Malawi)

FINAL
July 23
Zambia 2 (Chamanga 33, Lwipa 44)
Seychelles 0
HT: 2-0

Zambia qualify for semi-finals

Semi-finals draw

Zambia v Botswana (August 19)
Zimbabwe v Angola (September 17)

2007 ASIAN CUP QUALIFIERS

Group A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Japan	1	1	0	0	6	0	3
Saudi Arabia	1	1	0	0	4	0	3
Yemen	2	1	0	1	3	4	3
India	2	0	0	2	0	9	0

22.02.06 Japan-India 6-0
22.02.06 Yemen-Saudi Arabia 0-4
01.03.06 India-Yemen 0-3
16.08.06 India-Saudi Arabia
16.08.06 Japan-Yemen
03.09.06 Saudi Arabia-Japan
06.09.06 Saudi Arabia-India
06.09.06 Yemen-Japan
11.10.06 India-Japan
11.10.06 Saudi Arabia-Yemen
15.11.06 Japan-Saudi Arabia
15.11.06 Yemen-India

Group B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Iran	1	1	0	0	4	0	3
Syria	2	1	0	1	5	2	3
South Korea	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Taiwan	2	0	0	2	0	8	0

22.02.06 Iran-Taiwan 4-0
22.02.06 Syria-South Korea 1-2
01.03.06 Taiwan-Syria 0-4
16.08.06 Iran-Syria
16.08.06 Taiwan-South Korea
02.09.06 South Korea-Iran
06.09.06 South Korea-Taiwan
06.09.06 Syria-Iran
11.10.06 South Korea-Syria
11.10.06 Taiwan-Iran
15.11.06 Iran-South Korea
15.11.06 Syria-Taiwan

Group C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
UAE	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
Oman	2	1	0	1	3	1	3
Jordan	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Pakistan	2	0	0	2	1	7	0

22.02.06 Jordan-Pakistan 3-0
22.02.06 UAE-Oman 1-0
01.03.06 Oman-Jordan 3-0
01.03.06 Pakistan-UAE 1-4
16.08.06 Jordan-UAE
16.08.06 Pakistan-Oman
06.09.06 Oman-Pakistan
06.09.06 UAE-Jordan
11.10.06 Oman-UAE
11.10.06 Pakistan-Jordan
15.11.06 Jordan-Oman
15.11.06 UAE-Pakistan

Group D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Australia	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Kuwait	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Lebanon	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Bahrain	2	0	1	1	1	3	1

22.02.06 Bahrain-Australia 1-3
22.02.06 Lebanon-Kuwait 1-1
01.03.06 Kuwait-Bahrain 0-0
16.08.06 Australia-Kuwait
16.08.06 Bahrain-Lebanon
31.08.06 Australia-Lebanon
06.09.06 Kuwait-Australia
06.09.06 Lebanon-Bahrain
11.10.06 Australia-Bahrain
11.10.06 Kuwait-Lebanon
15.11.06 Bahrain-Kuwait
15.11.06 Lebanon-Australia

Group E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
China	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Singapore	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
Iraq	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Palestine	2	1	0	1	1	2	3

22.02.06 China-Palestine 2-0
22.02.06 Singapore-Iraq 2-0
01.03.06 Iraq-China 2-1
01.03.06 Palestine-Singapore 1-0
16.08.06 China-Singapore
17.08.06 Palestine-Iraq
06.09.06 Iraq-Palestine
06.09.06 Singapore-China
11.10.06 Iraq-Singapore
11.10.06 Palestine-China
15.11.06 China-Iraq
15.11.06 Singapore-Palestine

Group F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Qatar	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
Uzbekistan	2	1	0	1	6	2	3
Hong Kong	2	1	0	1	1	3	3
Bangladesh	2	0	0	2	0	6	0

22.02.06 Hong Kong-Qatar 0-3
22.02.06 Uzbekistan-Bangladesh 5-0
01.03.06 Bangladesh-Hong Kong 0-1
01.03.06 Qatar-Uzbekistan 2-1
16.08.06 Bangladesh-Qatar
16.08.06 Uzbekistan-Hong Kong
06.09.06 Hong Kong-Uzbekistan
06.09.06 Qatar-Bangladesh
11.10.06 Bangladesh-Uzbekistan
11.10.06 Qatar-Hong Kong
15.11.06 Hong Kong-Bangladesh
15.11.06 Uzbekistan-Qatar

Top two from each group qualify for finals. Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam qualify automatically as co-hosts

CLUB FOOTBALL EUROPE

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

1st qualifying round

1st legs - July 11/12; 2nd legs - July 18/19
Birkirkara (Mlt) v B36 (Far)
0-3, 2-2 (agg 2-5)
Cork City (Ire) v Apollon (Cyp)
1-0, 1-1 (agg 2-1)
Elbasani (Alb) v Ekranas (Lit)
1-0, 0-3 (agg 1-3)
F91 Dudelange (Lux) v Rabotnicki (Mac)
0-1, 0-0 (agg 0-1)
Linfield (Nl) v Gorica (Sln)
1-3, 2-2 (agg 3-5)
Metalurgs Liepaja (Lat) v Aktobe (Kaz)
1-0, 1-1 (agg 2-1)
MyPa (Fin) v TNS (Wal)
1-0, 1-0 (agg 2-0)
Pyunik (Arm) v Serif (Mol)
0-0, 0-2 (agg 0-2)
Shakhtyor (Bls) v Siroki Brijeg (Bos)
0-1, 0-1 (agg 0-2)
Sioni Bolnisi (Geo) v FK Baku (Aze)
2-0, 0-1 (agg 2-1)
TVMK (Est) v FH (Ice)
2-3, 1-1 (agg 3-4)

2nd qualifying round

1st legs - July 25/26
FC Copenhagen (Den) 2 MyPa 0
Cork City 0 Red Star Belgrade (Ser) 1
Debrecen (Hun) 1 Rabotnicki 1
Djurgardens (Swe) 1 Ruzomberok (Slk) 0
Ekranas 1 Dinamo Zagreb (Cro) 4
Fenerbahce (Tur) 4 B36 0
FH 0 Legia Warsaw (Pol) 1
Gorica 0 Steaua Bucharest (Rom) 2
Hearts (Sco) 3 Siroki Brijeg 0
Levski Sofia (Bul) 2 Sioni Bolnisi 0
Metalurgs Liepaja 1 Kyiv Dynamo (Ukr) 4
Mlada Boleslav (Cze) 3 Valerenga (Nor) 1
Serif 1 Spartak Moscow (Rus) 1
Zurich (Swi) 2 Salzburg (Aut) 1

2nd legs - August 1/2

3rd qualifying round draw

Austria Wien (Aut) v Benfica (Por)
FC Copenhagen OR MyPa v Ajax (Hol)
CSKA Moscow (Rus) v Djurgardens OR Ruzomberok
Ekranas OR Dinamo Zagreb v Arsenal (Eng)
Galatasaray (Tur) v Mlada Boleslav OR Valerenga
Hamburg (Ger) v Osasuna (Spa)
Hearts OR Siroki Brijeg v AEK Athens (Gre)
Levski Sofia OR Sioni Bolnici v Chievo (Ita)
Lille (Fra) v Debrecen OR Rabotnicki
Liverpool (Eng) v Maccabi Haifa (Isr)
Metalurgs Liepaja OR Kyiv Dynamo v Fenerbahce OR B36
Milan (Ita) v Cork City OR Red Star Belgrade
Serif OR Spartak Moscow v Slovan Liberec (Cze)
Shakhtar Donestk (Ukr) v FH OR Legia Warsaw
Standard Liege (Blg) v Gorica OR Steaua Bucharest
Zurich OR Salzburg v Valencia (Spa)

1st legs – August 8/9; 2nd legs – August 22/23

UEFA CUP

1st qualifying round

1st legs - July 13; 2nd legs - July 27
Ameri (Geo) v Banants (Arm)
0-1, 2-1 (agg 2-2; Ameri on away goals)
APOEL (Cyp) v Murata (SaM)
3-1, 4-0 (agg 7-1)
Artmedia (Slk) v WIT Georgia (Geo)
2-0, 1-2 (agg 3-2)
Atvidabergs (Swe) v Etzella Ettelbruck (Lux)
4-0, 3-0 (agg 7-0)
Basle (Swi) v Tobol (Kaz)
3-1, 0-0 (agg 3-1)
BATE Borisov (Bls) v Nistru (Mol)
2-0, 1-0 (agg 3-0)
Brondby (Den) v Valur (Ice)
3-1, 0-0 (agg 3-1)
Dinamo Tirana (Alb) v CSKA Sofia (Bul)
0-1, 1-4 (agg 1-5)
Fehervar (Hun) v Kairat (Kaz)
1-0, 1-2 (agg 2-2; Fehervar on away goals)
Gefle (Swe) v Llanelli (Wal)
1-2, 0-0 (agg 1-2)
Glentoran (Nl) v Brann (Nor)
0-1, 0-1 (agg 0-2)
Hibernians (Mlt) v Dinamo Bucharest (Rom)
0-4, 1-5 (agg 1-9)
HJK Helsinki (Fin) v Drogheda (Ire)
1-1, 1-3 (aet) (agg 2-4)
IFK Gothenburg (Swe) v Derry City (Ire)
0-1, 0-1 (agg 0-2)
Jeunesse d'Esch (Lux) v Skonto (Lat)
0-2, 0-3 (agg 0-5)
Karvan (Aze) v Spartak Trnava (Slk)
1-0, 1-0 (agg 2-0)
Koper (Sln) v Litex Lovech (Bul)
0-1, 0-5 (agg 0-6)
Levadia Tallinn (Est) v FC Haka (Fin)
2-0, 0-1 (agg 2-1)
Lokomotiv Sofia (Bul) v Makedonija (Mac)
2-0, 1-1 (agg 3-1)
Lyn (Nor) v Flora Tallinn (Est)
1-1, 0-0 (agg 1-1; Flora on away goals)
Mika Ashtarak (Arm) v Young Boys (Swi)
1-3, 0-1 (agg 1-4)
Orasje (Bos) v Domzale (Sln)
0-2, 0-5 (agg 0-7)
Portadown (Nl) v FBK Kaunas (Lit)
1-3, 0-1 (agg 1-4)
Randers (Den) v IA (Ice)
1-0, 1-2 (agg 2-2; Randers on away goals)
Rapid Bucharest (Rom) v Sliema Wanderers (Mlt)
5-0, 1-0 (agg 6-0)
Rhyl (Wal) v Suduva (Lit)
0-0, 1-2 (agg 1-2)
Rijeka (Cro) v Omonia (Cyp)
2-2, 1-2 (agg 3-4)
Sarajevo (Bos) v Ranger's (And)
3-0, 2-0 (agg 5-0)
Skala (Far) v Start (Nor)
0-1, 0-3 (agg 0-4)
Ujpest (Hun) v Vaduz (Lie)
0-4, 1-0 (agg 1-4)
Vardar (Mac) v Roeselare (Blg)
1-2, 1-5 (agg 2-7)
Varteks (Cro) v SK Tirana (Alb)
1-1, 0-2 (agg 1-3)
Ventspils (Lat) v Gl (Far)
2-1, 2-0 (agg 4-1)
Zaglebie (Pol) v Dinamo Minsk (Bls)
1-1, 0-0 (agg 1-1; Dinamo Minsk on away goals)
Zimbru (Mol) v Garabagh (Aze)
1-1, 2-1 (aet) (agg 3-2)

2nd qualifying round draw

APOEL v Trabzonspor (Tur)
Artmedia v Dinamo Minsk
Basle v Vaduz
Bnei Yehuda (Isr) v Lokomotiv Sofia
Brann v Atvidabergs
Chornomorets (Ukr) v Wisla Plock (Pol)
CSKA Sofia v Hajduk Kula (Ser)
Dinamo Bucharest v Beitar Jerusalem (Isr)
FBK Kaunas v Randers
Fehervar v Grasshopper (Swi)
Flora Tallinn v Brondby
Gretna (Sco) v Derry City
Hapoel Tel Aviv (Isr) v Domzale
Hertha Berlin (Ger) v Ameri
Karvan v Slavia Prague (Cze)
Marseille (Fra) v Young Boys
Mattersburg (Aut) v Wisla Krakow (Pol)
Molde (Nor) v Skonto
OB Odense (Den) v Llanelli
OFK Belgrade (Ser) v Auxerre (Fra)
Omonia v Litex Lovech
Partizan Belgrade (Ser) v Maribor (Sln)
Roeselare v Ethnikos Achnas (Cyp)
Rubin Kazan (Rus) v BATE Borisov
Sarajevo v Rapid Bucharest
SK Tirana v Kayserispor (Tur)
Start v Drogheda
Suduva v Club Brugge (Blg)
SV Ried (Aut) v Sion (Swi)
Twente (Hol) v Levadia Tallinn
Ventspils v Newcastle (Eng)
Zimbru v Metalurh Zaporizhzhya (Ukr)

1st legs – August 10; 2nd legs – August 24

INTERTOTO CUP

1st round

1st legs - June 17/18; 2nd legs - June 24/25

Dinaburg (Lat) v HB (Far)
1-1, 1-0 (agg 2-1)
Ethnikos Achnas (Cyp) v Partizani (Alb)
4-2, 1-2 (agg 5-4)
Keflavik (Ice) v Dungannon Swifts (NI)
4-1, 0-0 (agg 4-1)
Kilikia (Arm) v Dinamo Tbilisi (Geo)
1-5, 0-3 (agg 1-8)
MKT Araz (Aze) v FC Tiraspol (Mol)
1-0, 0-2 (agg 1-2)
Nitra (Slk) v Grevenmacher (Lux)
6-2, 6-0 (agg 12-2)
Pobeda (Mac) v Farul (Rom)
2-2, 0-2 (agg 2-4)
Sant Julia (And) v Maribor (Sln)
0-3, 0-5 (agg 0-8)
Shakhtyor (Kaz) v MTZ-Ripo (Bls)
1-5, 3-1 (agg 4-6)
Tampere Utd (Fin) v Carmarthen (Wal)
5-0, 3-1 (agg 8-1)
Trans Narva (Est) v Kalmar (Swe)
1-6, 0-2 (agg 1-8)
Vetra (Lit) v Shelbourne (Ire)
0-1, 0-4 (agg 0-5)
Zrinjski (Bos) v Marsaxlokk (Mlt)
3-0, 1-1 (agg 4-1)

2nd round

1st legs - July 1/2; 2nd legs - July 8/9

Farul v Lokomotiv Plovdiv (Bul)
2-1, 1-1 (agg 3-2)
Grasshopper (Swi) v Teplice (Cze)
2-0, 2-0 (agg 4-0)
Hibernian (Sco) v Dinaburg
5-0, 3-0 (agg 8-0)
Lillestrom (Nor) v Keflavik
4-1, 2-2 (agg 6-3)
Maccabi Petach Tikva (Isr) v Zrinjski
1-1, 3-1 (agg 4-2)
FC Moscow (Rus) v MTZ-Ripo
2-0, 1-0 (agg 3-0)
Nitra v Dnipro (Ukr)
2-1, 0-2 (agg 2-3)
OB Odense (Den) v Shelbourne
3-0, 0-1 (agg 3-1)
Osijek (Cro) v Ethnikos Achnas
2-2, 0-0 (agg 2-2; Ethnikos on away goals)
Sopron (Hun) v Kayserispor (Tur)
3-3, 0-1 (agg 3-4)
SV Ried (Aut) v Dinamo Tbilisi
3-1, 1-0 (agg 4-1)
Tampere Utd v Kalmar
1-2, 2-3 (agg 3-5)
FC Tiraspol v Lech Poznan (Pol)
1-0, 3-1 (agg 4-1)
Zeta (Ser) v Maribor
1-2, 0-2 (agg 1-4)

3rd round

1st legs - July 15/16; 2nd legs - July 22

Auxerre (Fra) v Farul
4-1, 0-1 (agg 4-2)
Grasshopper v Gent (Blg)
2-1, 1-1 (agg 3-2)
Hertha Berlin (Ger) v FC Moscow
0-0, 2-0 (agg 2-0)
Kalmar v Twente (Hol)
1-0, 1-3 (agg 2-3)
Larisa (Gre) v Kayserispor
0-0, 0-2 (agg 0-2)
Maccabi Petach Tikva v Ethnikos Achnas
0-2, 3-2 (agg 3-4)
Marseille (Fra) v Dnipro
0-0, 2-2 (agg 2-2; Marseille on away goals)
Newcastle (Eng) v Lillestrom
1-1, 3-0 (agg 4-1)
OB Odense v Hibernian
1-0, 1-2 (agg 2-2; OB on away goals)
SV Ried v FC Tiraspol
3-1, 1-1 (agg 4-2)
Villarreal (Spa) v Maribor
1-2, 1-1 (agg 2-3)

3rd round winners enter UEFA Cup at second qualifying round stage

ALBANIA

ALBANIA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Elbasani	36	21	10	5	50	22	73
SK Tirana	36	17	11	8	54	33	62
Dinamo	36	17	10	9	53	35	61
Partizani	36	18	6	12	51	35	60
Besa	36	13	7	16	49	42	46
Vilaznia	36	13	6	17	39	45	45
Shkumbini	36	12	7	17	31	49	43
Teuta	36	11	9	16	32	45	42
Skenderbeu	36	12	6	18	33	50	42
Lushnja	36	5	10	21	22	58	25

AUSTRIA

July 18: Austria Wien 0 Grazer AK 0.
July 19: Sturm Graz 2 Wacker Tirol 3; SV Ried 0 Salzburg 3; Altach 2 Pasching 3; Mattersburg 1 Rapid Wien 0.
July 22: Grazer AK 0 Mattersburg 2; Pasching 2 Austria Wien 0; Altach 0 Salzburg 2.
July 23: Rapid Wien 4 Sturm Graz 1.
July 26: SV Ried 0 Wacker Tirol 1.

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Salzburg	2	2	0	0	5	0	6
Pasching	2	2	0	0	5	2	6
Mattersburg	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
Wacker Tirol	2	2	0	0	4	2	6
Rapid Wien	2	1	0	1	4	2	3
Austria Wien	2	0	1	1	0	2	1
Grazer AK	2	0	1	1	0	2	1
Altach	2	0	0	2	2	5	0
SV Ried	2	0	0	2	0	4	0
Sturm Graz*	2	0	0	2	3	7	-3

**3pts deducted for licence application irregularities*

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Siroki Brijeg	30	19	6	5	38	19	63
Sarajevo	30	18	6	6	57	26	60
Zrinjski	30	17	3	10	47	29	54
Modrica	30	17	2	11	53	30	53
Slavija	30	12	5	13	41	47	41
Zeljeznicar	30	11	7	12	38	33	40
Jedinstvo	30	13	1	16	38	40	40
Zepce	30	11	7	12	29	40	40
Leotar	30	12	3	15	43	48	39
Posusje	30	12	3	15	38	46	39
Sloboda	30	11	6	13	31	40	39
Orasje	30	12	2	16	50	51	38
Radnik	30	11	5	14	37	52	38
Celik	30	10	5	15	33	45	35
Travnik	30	10	4	16	33	41	34
Buducnost	30	10	3	17	29	48	33

CYPRUS

CYPRUS – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Apollon	26	19	7	0	68	24	64
Omonia	26	20	3	3	59	20	63
APOEL	26	19	5	2	63	22	62
Anorthosis	26	15	8	3	55	26	53
ENP	26	12	7	7	40	28	43
Nea Salamina	26	12	5	9	53	48	41
AEL	26	10	5	11	44	48	35
AEK	26	9	4	13	39	37	31
Ethnikos	26	8	4	14	42	43	28
Digenis	26	7	7	12	33	45	28
Olympiakos	26	6	9	11	40	50	27
APOP	26	5	3	18	35	65	18
APEP	26	1	5	20	17	72	8
ENTHOI	26	1	4	21	15	75	7

DENMARK

July 19: Brondby 2 Vejle 1; Nordsjaelland 5 Randers 0; Horsens 0 FC Copenhagen 1; AaB 3 Viborg 1; Esbjerg 2 Silkeborg 1; OB 1 Midtjylland 1.
July 22: Silkeborg 1 FC Copenhagen 4.
July 23: Viborg 0 Midtjylland 1; Esbjerg 1 AaB 2; Brondby 2 Nordsjaelland 1; Randers 1 Horsens 0.

DENMARK

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Copenhagen	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
AaB	2	2	0	0	5	2	6
Brondby	2	2	0	0	4	2	6
Midtjylland	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Nordsjaelland	2	1	0	1	6	2	3
Esbjerg	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Randers	2	1	0	1	1	5	3
OB	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Vejle	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Horsens	2	0	0	2	0	2	0
Viborg	2	0	0	2	1	4	0
Silkeborg	2	0	0	2	2	6	0

GEORGIA

GEORGIA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sioni Bolnisi	30	23	4	3	57	17	73
WIT Georgia	30	21	5	4	53	17	68
Dinamo Tbilisi	30	20	4	6	61	22	64
Zestafoni	30	18	7	5	44	22	61
Borjomi	30	19	2	9	50	26	59
Dinamo Batumi	30	17	7	6	42	21	58
Ameri	30	15	4	11	32	26	49
Lokomotivi	30	11	4	15	41	48	37
Kakheti	30	10	4	16	33	46	34
Kolkheti	30	9	5	16	26	36	32
Dila Gori	30	9	4	17	35	44	31
Torpedo Kutaisi	30	8	6	16	28	42	30
FC Tbilisi	30	9	2	19	29	44	29
Tskhinvali	30	8	3	19	30	61	27
Dinamo Sok'mi	30	5	3	22	26	70	18
Spartaki	30	3	6	21	12	57	15

HUNGARY

June 2: Sopron 1 Ferencvaros 1.
June 3: Diosgyor 1 Gyor 1; Rakospalota 0 Kaposvar 3; Debrecen 4 Papa 1; Ujpest 1 Fehervar 3; Vasas 2 MTK 1; Pecs 0 Zalaegerszeg 0; Tatabanya 3 Honved 1.

HUNGARY – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Debrecen	30	20	8	2	69	34	68
Ujpest	30	20	5	5	74	37	65
Fehervar	30	19	7	4	52	24	64
MTK	30	18	6	6	65	33	60
Tatabanya	30	11	8	11	46	45	41
Ferencvaros	30	10	11	9	43	38	41
Kaposvar	30	10	7	13	35	41	37
Diosgyor	30	10	7	13	33	44	37
Gyor	30	9	9	12	47	50	36
Sopron	30	9	8	13	39	39	35
Zalaegerszeg	30	9	8	13	42	47	35
Pecs	30	8	9	13	37	41	33
Honved	30	8	9	13	33	52	33
Rakospalota	30	7	5	18	30	59	26
Vasas	30	5	10	15	32	47	25
Papa	30	5	7	18	30	76	22

ISRAEL

ISRAEL – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Maccabi Haifa	33	23	6	4	65	25	75
Hapoel Tel Aviv	33	16	11	6	51	25	59
Beitar J'salem	33	17	7	9	51	33	58
Bnei Yehuda	33	14	7	12	37	41	49
M Petach Tikva	33	12	8	13	37	38	44
M Tel Aviv	33	11	11	11	35	37	44
M Netanya	33	11	8	14	40	45	41
MS Ashdod	33	9	12	12	46	47	39
H Petach Tikva	33	9	10	14	38	50	37
H Kfar Saba	33	8	10	15	30	41	34
Upper Nazareth	33	8	10	15	25	47	34
Bnei Sakhnin	33	5	10	18	28	54	25

MACEDONIA

MACEDONIA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rabotnicki	33	21	9	3	64	26	72
Makedonija	33	21	6	6	55	23	69
Vardar	33	19	7	7	42	19	64
Pobeda	33	16	6	11	58	46	54
Skendija	33	15	4	14	48	47	49
Baskimi	33	13	6	14	50	49	45
Renova	33	13	5	15	45	49	44
Vlazrimi	33	13	4	16	44	57	43
Sileks	33	10	11	12	54	58	41
Bregalnica	33	10	6	17	44	55	36
Cementarnica	33	8	8	17	38	51	32
Belasica	33	2	2	29	22	84	8

MALTA

MALTA – CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFFS – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Birkirkara	28	19	5	4	68	27	42 [21]
Sliema	28	17	5	6	58	27	37 [20]
Marsaxlokk	28	16	5	7	52	36	36 [17]
Hibernians	28	14	4	10	49	37	28 [19]
Valletta	28	10	5	13	37	49	24 [12]
Msida St J	28	6	7	15	40	59	15 [11]

Teams carried forward half their points (figure in brackets) from regular season

MOLDOVA

MOLDOVA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Serif	28	22	5	1	57	11	71
Zimbru	28	15	8	5	47	20	53
FC Tiraspol	28	8	13	7	24	21	37
Tiligul	28	7	13	8	22	23	34
Nistru	28	6	13	9	24	27	31
Dacia	28	7	9	12	28	39	30
Politehnica	28	5	10	13	18	37	25
Dinamo Bender	28	2	9	17	17	59	15

NORTHERN IRELAND

NORTHERN IRELAND – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Linfield	30	23	6	1	88	23	75
Glentoran	30	19	6	5	60	28	63
Portadown	30	16	6	8	56	36	54
Dungannon	30	13	10	7	61	41	49
Cliftonville	30	13	8	9	45	35	47
Newry	30	12	9	9	45	35	45
Ballymena	30	13	6	11	42	48	45
Lisburn	30	12	8	10	44	38	44
Coleraine	30	11	4	15	40	57	37
Limavady	30	9	9	12	42	49	36
Loughgall	30	9	7	14	33	38	34
Larne	30	7	9	14	42	63	30
Glenavon	30	7	9	14	35	59	30
Armagh	30	9	3	18	38	69	30
Institute	30	6	8	16	37	58	26
Ards	30	6	2	22	31	62	20

NORWAY

June 5: Ham-Kam 1 Molde 2; Rosenborg 0 Brann 0; Lyn 0 Viking 0; Tromso 1 Lillestrom 0; Odd Grenland 3 Fredrikstad 3; Sandefjord 1 Start 1.
June 6: Stabaek 2 Valerenga 2.
July 2: Fredrikstad 1 Lyn 2; Ham-Kam 4 Brann 0; Molde 1 Stabaek 3; Valerenga 4 Sandefjord 1; Viking 1 Rosenborg 3.
July 3: Start 1 Tromso 1.
July 12: Lillestrom 2 Odd Grenland 2.
July 16: Rosenborg 1 Fredrikstad 0; Sandefjord 5 Molde 2; Stabaek 4 Ham-Kam 0; Tromso 0 Valerenga 1; Odd Grenland 2 Start 0.
July 17: Brann 2 Viking 0.
July 22: Valerenga 1 Lyn 2; Molde 2 Odd Grenland 0.
July 23: Start 2 Rosenborg 1; Fredrikstad 2 Viking 1; Ham-Kam 3 Sandefjord 0.
July 24: Stabaek 3 Tromso 1.

NORWAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brann	13	8	4	1	21	11	28
Stabaek	14	5	7	2	25	15	22
Lillestrom	12	6	4	2	21	14	22
Rosenborg	14	5	6	3	19	15	21
Odd Grenland	14	4	7	3	18	15	19
Valerenga	14	5	4	5	17	15	19
Ham-Kam	14	5	3	6	21	18	18
Lyn	13	5	3	5	14	18	18
Sandefjord	14	5	3	6	18	23	18
Molde	14	5	2	7	17	22	17
Fredrikstad	14	4	4	6	18	24	16
Start	14	3	6	5	12	17	15
Viking	14	3	5	6	11	16	14
Tromso	14	2	4	8	12	21	10

ROMANIA

June 2: Gloria 1 CFR Cluj 2; Bacau 0 Vaslui 2.
June 3: Farul 0 Otelul 1; Dinamo 2 National 1; Poli Iasi 3 Arges 2; Pandurii 3 Poli Timisoara 2; Steaua 1 Jiul 0.
June 4: Rapid 3 Sportul 0.
June 7: Vaslui 0 Steaua 4; Jiul 3 Rapid 0 (awarded); Poli Timisoara 0 Dinamo 0; Sportul 2 Gloria 1; CFR Cluj 3 Farul 0; Arges 0 Bacau 0; National 1 Poli Iasi 1; Otelul 1 Pandurii 1.

ROMANIA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Steaua	30	19	7	4	49	16	64
Rapid	30	17	8	5	47	23	59
Dinamo	30	17	5	8	56	32	56
Sportul	30	17	5	8	54	35	56
CFR Cluj	30	14	8	8	36	27	50
National	30	13	7	10	32	37	46
Farul	30	14	3	13	39	38	45
Poli Timisoara	30	10	10	10	34	31	40
Otelul	30	10	9	11	35	37	39
Gloria	30	11	6	13	27	34	39
Poli Iasi	30	11	6	13	28	31	39
Arges	30	8	8	14	27	37	32
Jiul	30	7	9	14	28	39	30
Vaslui	30	6	11	13	23	37	29
Pandurii	30	6	7	17	22	44	25
Bacau	30	3	5	22	16	55	14

RUSSIA

July 5: FC Moscow 4 Shinnik 1.
July 6: Luch-Energiya 3 Kryliya Sovetov 2; CSKA 2 Torpedo 0; Spartak Nalchik 3 Rostov 1; Zenit 0 Dinamo 0; Lokomotiv 0 Saturn 0.
July 7: Spartak Moscow 4 Amkar 1; Rubin 2 Tom 0.
July 10: CSKA 1 Rostov 2.
July 11: Lokomotiv 2 Dinamo 0.
July 12: FC Moscow 0 Zenit 0; Spartak Moscow 3 Shinnik 1; Rubin 1 Torpedo 1; Kryliya Sovetov 6 Amkar 1; Luch-Energiya 2 Saturn 0; Spartak Nalchik 1 Tom 0.
July 16: Shinnik 1 Lokomotiv 3; Tom 2 Spartak Moscow 2; Saturn 1 Spartak Nalchik 4; Amkar 0 Luch-Energiya 0; Rostov 2 Kryliya Sovetov 2.
July 19: FC Moscow 1 Torpedo 1; Zenit 0 CSKA 0; Dinamo 2 Rubin 2.
July 21: Spartak Moscow 1 Saturn 1.
July 22: Lokomotiv 1 Tom 1.
July 23: CSKA 1 Kryliya Sovetov 1; Zenit 2 Torpedo 1; Luch-Energiya 4 Rostov 2; Spartak Nalchik 2 Amkar 1.
July 25: FC Moscow 1 Dinamo 1.
July 26: Rubin 0 Shinnik 0.

RUSSIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spartak N	13	8	3	2	22	13	27
CSKA	13	7	3	3	19	9	24
Rubin	13	6	5	2	18	12	23
Lokomotiv	13	6	4	3	25	17	22
Spartak M	13	5	7	1	25	16	22
Kryliya Sovetov	13	5	5	3	20	14	20
Tom	13	5	4	4	13	13	19
Luch-Energiya	13	5	3	5	18	16	18
Zenit	13	4	6	3	16	16	18
FC Moscow	13	4	5	4	14	16	17
Saturn	13	2	8	3	10	11	14
Rostov	13	3	4	6	16	20	13
Amkar	13	2	5	6	8	20	11
Dinamo	13	1	6	6	9	15	9
Torpedo	13	1	6	6	9	18	9
Shinnik	13	1	4	8	6	22	7

SLOVAKIA

SLOVAKIA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ruzomberok	36	26	2	8	65	28	80
Artmedia	36	23	5	8	58	33	74
Spartak Trnava	36	21	5	10	57	31	68
MSK Zilina	36	18	6	12	69	44	60
Nitra	36	12	9	15	42	48	45
Banska Bystrica	36	12	6	18	37	42	42
Trencin	36	11	9	16	31	49	42
Dubnica	36	10	10	16	41	55	40
Inter	36	7	9	20	27	62	30
Matador Puchov	36	7	5	24	29	64	26

SLOVENIA

SLOVENIA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gorica	36	21	10	5	75	30	73
Domzale	36	20	11	5	69	28	71
Koper	36	16	9	11	49	39	57
Maribor	36	16	6	14	51	42	54
Drava	36	15	9	12	50	46	54
Publikum	36	15	4	17	48	59	49
Nafta	36	13	7	16	42	52	46
Primorje	36	11	10	15	43	50	43
Bela	36	7	13	16	35	61	34
Rudar	36	2	9	25	28	83	15

SWEDEN

July 15: Malmo 3 AIK 1.
July 16: Djurgardens 1 Elfsborg 1; Halmstads 1 IFK Gothenburg 4.
July 17: Hammarby 2 Osters 0; Helsingborgs 1 Hacken 3.
July 18: GAIS 1 Gefle 0.
July 19: Orgryte 1 Kalmar 3.
July 20: Hacken 0 Djurgardens 2.
July 22: Orgryte 1 Helsingborgs 1.
July 23: AIK 3 Halmstads 0; Gefle 4 Malmo 3.
July 24: Osters 2 GAIS 2.
July 25: Elfsborg 3 Hammarby 0.

SWEDEN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hammarby	11	7	2	2	19	13	23
AIK	11	6	3	2	21	12	21
Elfsborg	11	5	5	1	17	10	20
Djurgardens	11	5	4	2	13	8	19
IFK Gothenburg	10	5	3	2	16	9	18
Malmo	11	5	3	3	17	13	18
Kalmar	10	5	2	3	15	9	17
Gefle	11	4	3	4	12	15	15
GAIS	11	3	4	4	11	14	13
Helsingborgs	11	2	5	4	14	16	11
Hacken	11	2	4	5	12	15	10
Halmstads	11	1	5	5	4	12	8
Osters	11	1	3	7	6	21	6
Orgryte	11	0	4	7	8	18	4

SWITZERLAND

July 19: Aarau 1 Thun 1; Schaffhausen 1 St Gallen 1; Young Boys 1 Basle 1; Grasshopper 0 Sion 0; Lucerne 0 Zurich 3.
July 22: Basle 3 Schaffhausen 0; Zurich 3 Aarau 0.
July 23: Thun 0 Young Boys 0; Sion 3 Lucerne 2.
July 25: St Gallen 0 Grasshopper 0.

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zurich	2	2	0	0	6	0	6
Basle	2	1	1	0	4	1	4
Sion	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
St Gallen	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Thun	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Young Boys	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Grasshopper	2	0	2	0	0	0	2
Aarau	2	0	1	1	1	4	1
Schaffhausen	2	0	1	1	1	4	1
Lucerne	2	0	0	2	2	5	0

UKRAINE

July 21: Dynamo 4 Chornomorets 1.
July 22: Stal 0 Metalist 1; Tavriya 1 Illichivets 0.
July 23: FC Kharkiv 2 Zorya 2; Karpaty 0 Metalurh Z 0; Shakhtar 5 Kryvbas 0; Vorskla 0 Arsenal 1.
July 26: Dnipro 2 Metalurh D 0.

UKRAINE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Shakhtar	1	1	0	0	5	0	3
Dynamo	1	1	0	0	4	1	3
Dnipro	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Arsenal	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Metalist	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Tavriya	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
FC Kharkiv	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Zorya	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Karpaty	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Metalurh Z	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Illichivets	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Stal	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Vorskla	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Metalurh D	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Chornomorets	1	0	0	1	1	4	0
Kryvbas	1	0	0	1	0	5	0

WALES

WALES – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
TNS	34	27	5	2	87	17	86
Llanelli	34	21	5	8	64	28	68
Rhyl	34	18	10	6	65	30	64
Carmarthen	34	17	6	11	62	42	57
Port Talbot	34	15	11	8	47	30	56
Welshpool	34	15	9	10	59	48	54
Aberystwyth	34	14	10	10	59	48	52
Haverfordwest	34	12	14	8	49	36	50
Bangor	34	14	3	17	51	54	45
Caersws	34	11	12	11	44	56	45
Porthmadog	34	12	8	14	57	59	44
Connah's Quay	34	10	8	16	36	46	38
Caernarfon	34	9	10	15	47	55	37
Newtown	34	10	6	18	42	61	36
Cefn Druids	34	7	11	16	42	58	32
Airbus UK	34	8	8	18	35	60	32
Cwmbran	34	8	8	18	42	73	32
Grange Quins	34	4	4	26	23	110	16

SOUTH AMERICA

LIBERTADORES CUP

Quarter-finals, 2nd legs

*July 18**

Libertad (Par) 3 (Lopez 16, Aquino 40, Riveros 47)
River Plate (Arg) 1 (Farias 76)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Selman (Chl)
Sent off: Gallardo (River Plate) 62min
**Match abandoned after 80mins because of fan riot. Result stood*
Libertad 5-3 on agg

July 19

Internacional (Bra) 2 (Rafael Sobis 52, Renteria 87)
LDU Quito (Ecu) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 34,664. **Ref:** Larrionda (Uru)
Internacional 3-2 on agg

July 19

Sao Paulo (Bra) 1 (Edcarlos 44)
Estudiantes (Arg) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 66,056. **Ref:** Chandia (Chl)
Agg 1-1. Sao Paulo 4-3 on pens

July 20

Velez Sarsfield (Arg) 1 (Batalla 82)
Guadalajara (Mex) 2 (Morales pen 27, Bautista 73)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Torres (Par)
Sent off: Martinez (Guadalajara) 65min
Guadalajara 2-1 on agg

Semi-finals, 1st legs

July 26

Guadalajara 0
Sao Paulo 1 (Rogerio Ceni pen 84)
HT:

GROUP 3 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Colo Colo	18	13	1	4	54	22	40
Cobreloa	18	9	3	6	32	24	30
Union Espanola	18	8	4	6	24	21	28
Antofagasta	18	5	6	7	26	31	21
Puerto Montt	18	4	5	9	33	32	17

GROUP 4 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Huachipato	18	11	3	4	32	19	36
O'Higgins	18	5	6	7	20	25	21
Palestino	18	4	4	10	22	35	16
Rangers	18	4	4	10	26	40	16

Group winners and the two runners-up with most points qualified automatically for the quarter-finals; the other runners-up and the two third-placed sides with most points entered the qualifying play-offs for the two remaining quarter-finals places

Qualifying play-offs

June 7: Union Espanola 2 Dep La Serena 2.
June 9: U Catolica 1 O'Higgins 1.
Union Espanola and U Catolica qualified for quarter-finals on better season record

Quarter-finals

1st legs - June 10/11/13; 2nd legs - June 17/18
Audax Italiano v U de Concepcion 2-1, 0-2 (agg 2-3)
Cobreloa v Huachipato 3-1, 0-4 (agg 3-5)
U Catolica v U de Chile 2-2, 1-3 (agg 3-5)
Union Espanola v Colo Colo 0-4, 0-5 (agg 0-9)

Semi-finals

1st legs - June 21/22; 2nd legs - June 25
U de Chile v Huachipato 6-1, 2-2 (agg 8-3)
U de Concepcion v Colo Colo 3-4, 0-2 (agg 3-6)

Final

1st leg - June 28
U de Chile 1 (Alcazar 13)
Colo Colo 2 (Fernandez 54, 90)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 28,804. **Ref:** Pozo

2nd leg - July 2
Colo Colo 0
U de Chile 1 (Figueroa 69)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 61,000. **Ref:** Selman
Agg 2-2. Colo Colo 4-2 on pens

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP League stage

July 15: Union Espanola 1 Coquimbo Unido 1.
July 16: Cobresal 1 Antofagasta 0; Santiago Morning 1 Santiago Wanderers 1; Dep La Serena 2 Audax Italiano 1; Rangers 3 Palestino 1; Cobreloa 1 Huachipato 1; Everton 1 Puerto Montt 2.
July 22: O'Higgins 4 Santiago Morning 2; Santiago Wanderers 2 Dep La Serena 0; Coquimbo Unido 0 Everton 0; Audax Italiano 1 Rangers 0.
July 23: Palestino 1 U de Chile 0; Antofagasta 1 Colo Colo 1; Puerto Montt 4 Cobreloa 1; Huachipato 1 Cobresal 1; U de Concepcion 4 Union Espanola 2.

CHILE – CLOSING – GROUP 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
S Wanderers	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Cobresal	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Palestino	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Colo Colo	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Cobreloa	2	0	1	1	2	5	1

GROUP 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
O'Higgins	1	1	0	0	4	2	3
Rangers	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Huachipato	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Coquimbo U'do	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Union Espanola	2	0	1	1	3	5	1

GROUP 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Puerto Montt	2	2	0	0	6	2	6
U Concepcion	1	1	0	0	4	2	3
Audax Italiano	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Dep La Serena	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
S Morning	2	0	1	1	3	5	1

GROUP 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Antofagasta	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Everton	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
U Catolica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
U de Chile	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

COLOMBIA

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP Play-offs

June 3: At Nacional 2 Millonarios 0.
June 4: Tolima 0 Dep Cali 0; Pereira 1 Once Caldas 2; Cucuta 0 Dep Pasto 1.
June 7: Tolima 2 Pereira 1; Once Caldas 0 Dep Cali 1; At Nacional 2 Cucuta 3; Dep Pasto 1 Millonarios 1.
June 10: Dep Cali 2 Once Caldas 1.
June 11: Pereira 4 Tolima 0; Cucuta 2 At Nacional 1; Millonarios 2 Dep Pasto 0.
June 14: Dep Cali 2 Tolima 2; Once Caldas 3 Pereira 1; Millonarios 0 At Nacional 2; Dep Pasto 2 Cucuta 0.
June 18: Tolima 4 Once Caldas 0; Pereira 2 Dep Cali 2; At Nacional 1 Dep Pasto 3; Cucuta 2 Millonarios 1.

OPENING – PLAY-OFFS – GROUP A – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dep Cali	6	3	3	0	11	6	12
Tolima	6	2	3	1	9	8	9
Once Caldas	6	2	1	3	7	10	7
Pereira	6	1	1	4	10	13	4

GROUP B – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dep Pasto	6	4	1	1	9	5	13
Cucuta	6	3	1	2	8	8	10
At Nacional	6	2	0	4	9	10	6
Millonarios	6	1	2	3	5	8	5

Final

1st leg - June 21
Deportivo Cali 0
Deportivo Pasto 1 (Villagra 69)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 42,000. **Ref:** Hoyos

2nd leg - June 25
Deportivo Pasto 1 (Vidal 59)
Deportivo Cali 1 (Tapia 78)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Lopez
Deportivo Pasto 2-1 on agg

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP Regular season

July 15: At Nacional 2 Cucuta 1.
July 16: Pereira 2 Dep Pasto 1; Envigado 1 At Junior 3; Bucaramanga 0 Medellin 2; Tolima 2 Indep Santa Fe 0; Millonarios 1 At Huila 1; Dep Cali 2 America 1; Chico 3 Once Caldas 0.
July 22: Indep Santa Fe 1 Chico 1.
July 23: At Huila 3 Tolima 2; At Junior 2 At Nacional 1; Indep Medellin 1 Real Cartagena 0; Once Caldas 1 Envigado 0; Dep Pasto 1 Millonarios 0; Quindio 2 Pereira 0; America 1 Bucaramanga 2; Cucuta 1 Dep Cali 1.

COLOMBIA – CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
At Junior	2	2	0	0	5	2	6
Indep Medellin	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
Chico	2	1	1	0	4	1	4
At Huila	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Dep Cali	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Quindio	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Tolima	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
At Nacional	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Dep Pasto	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Bucaramanga	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Pereira	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Once Caldas	2	1	0	1	1	3	3
Cucuta	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Millonarios	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Indep Santa Fe	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Real Cartagena	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
America	2	0	0	2	2	4	0
Envigado	2	0	0	2	1	4	0

ECUADOR

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

July 7: LDU Quito 1 Olmedo 2.
July 8: Emelec 4 Dep Quito 1; Dep Cuenca 3 Aucas 0; Macara 0 Barcelona 3; El Nacional 3 Dep Azoguez 1.
July 12: Dep Azoguez 2 LDU Quito 0; Barcelona 0 El Nacional 2; Aucas 0 Macara 1; Dep Quito 2 Dep Cuenca 1; Olmedo 1 Emelec 0.
July 15: LDU Quito 1 El Nacional 0.
July 16: Emelec 2 Dep Azoguez 2; Dep Cuenca 1 Barcelona 3; Aucas 0 Dep Quito 1; Macara 2 Olmedo 4.
July 22: Olmedo 1 Dep Cuenca 1; Dep Azoguez 1 Macara 4; El Nacional 2 Emelec 0.
July 23: Barcelona 3 Aucas 1; Dep Quito 5 LDU Quito 1.

ECUADOR – CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olmedo	4	3	1	0	8	4	10
Barcelona	4	3	0	1	9	4	9
El Nacional	4	3	0	1	7	2	9
Dep Quito	4	3	0	1	9	6	9
Macara	4	2	0	2	7	8	6
Dep Cuenca	4	1	1	2	6	6	4
Emelec	4	1	1	2	6	6	4
Dep Azoguez	4	1	1	2	6	9	4
LDU Quito	4	1	0	3	3	9	3
Aucas	4	0	0	4	1	8	0

PARAGUAY

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

June 2: Nacional 1 Olimpia 1; 12 de Octubre 4 Fernando de la Mora 2; 2 de Mayo 3 Guarani 0.
June 3: 3 de Febrero 1 Cerro Porteno 2; Sportivo Luqueno 1 Libertad 3.

PARAGUAY – OPENING – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Libertad	20	13	3	4	42	20	42
Cerro Porteno	20	12	4	4	36	22	40
Tacuary	20	10	4	6	34	33	34
Sp Luqueno	20	9	6	5	39	29	33
12 de Octubre	20	8	4	8	25	31	28
Olimpia	20	8	3	9	34	30	27
2 de Mayo	20	6	7	7	29	33	25
Nacional	20	6	6	8	42	36	24
Guarani	20	5	6	9	34	43	21
3 de Febrero	20	5	4	11	29	41	19
F'do de la Mora	20	3	3	14	21	47	12

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

July 14: Tacuary 1 12 de Octubre 1.
July 15: Sportivo Luqueno 0 2 de Mayo 0.
July 16: Guarani 1 3 de Febrero 0; Nacional 0 Cerro Porteno 1.
July 21: 2 de Mayo 2 Tacuary 2; 12 de Octubre 1 Nacional 4.
July 22: Cerro Porteno 3 Fernando de la Mora 1; 3 de Febrero 0 Libertad 1.
July 23: Olimpia 4 Sportivo Luqueno 2.

PARAGUAY – CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cerro Porteno	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
Olimpia	1	1	0	0	4	2	3
Nacional	2	1	0	1	4	2	3
Guarani	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Libertad	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Tacuary	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
2 de Mayo	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Sp Luqueno	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
12 de Octubre	2	0	1	1	2	5	1
F'do de la Mora	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
3 de Febrero	2	0	0	2	0	2	0

PERU

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

June 10: Union Huaral 0 Sport Boys 3; Coronel Bolognesi 3 Melgar 0; Sporting Cristal 2 Sport Ancash 0.
June 11: Cienciano 3 Alianza Atletico 0; Jose Galvez 2 Universidad SMP 4; Universitario 1 Alianza Lima 1.
June 17: Universitario 1 Cienciano 0; Universidad SMP 1 Union Huaral 0; Melgar 2 Alianza Lima 1; Sport Boys 1 Sporting Cristal 1.
June 18: Alianza Atletico 0 Jose Galvez 0; Sport Ancash 1 Coronel Bolognesi 2.
June 21: Jose Galvez 1 Universitario 1; Alianza Lima 2 Sport Ancash 0; Melgar 0 Cienciano 0; Coronel Bolognesi 3 Sport Boys 0; Union Huaral 0 Alianza Atletico 1; Sporting Cristal 1 Universidad SMP 0.
June 25: Sport Boys 1 Alianza Lima 1; Alianza Atletico 1 Sporting Cristal 4; Universidad SMP 2 Coronel Bolognesi 1; Cienciano 3 Jose Galvez 0; Sport Ancash 0 Melgar 0; Universitario 5 Union Huaral 0.

PERU – OPENING – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Alianza Lima	22	13	7	2	33	13	46
Sporting Cristal	22	13	6	3	37	17	45
C Bolognesi	22	9	7	6	32	24	34
Cienciano	22	9	6	7	26	17	33
Univ SMP	22	9	6	7	30	30	33
Universitario	22	8	7	7	30	22	31
Alianza Atletico	22	8	5	9	26	35	29
Sport Ancash	22	6	7	9	24	31	25
Union Huaral	22	6	6	10	20	30	24
Jose Galvez	22	6	4	12	20	30	22
Melgar	22	5	7	10	20	32	22
Sport Boys	22	3	6	13	17	34	15

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

July 15: Melgar 1 Coronel Bolognesi 0.
July 16: Universitario 2 Cienciano 1; Union Huaral 1 Sporting Cristal 0; Alianza Atletico 1 Alianza Lima 1; Jose Galvez 3 Sport Boys 0; Universidad SMP 2 Sport Ancash 0.
July 22: Sport Boys 0 Universidad SMP 0; Sport Ancash 1 Alianza Atletico 0.
July 23: Coronel Bolognesi 4 Universitario 1; Cienciano 5 Union Huaral 1; Sporting Cristal 2 Melgar 0; Alianza Lima 1 Jose Galvez 0.

PERU – CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Univ SMP	2	1	1	0	2	0	4
Alianza Lima	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Cienciano	2	1	0	1	6	3	3
C Bolognesi	2	1	0	1	4	2	3
Jose Galvez	2	1	0	1	3	1	3
Sporting Cristal	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
Sport Ancash	2	1	0	1	1	2	3
Melgar	2	1	0	1	1	2	3
Universitario	2	1	0	1	3	5	3
Union Huaral	2	1	0	1	2	5	3
Alianza Atletico	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Sport Boys	2	0	1	1	0	3	1

URUGUAY

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

June 10: Defensor 1 Nacional 3.
June 11: Tacuarembo 1 Rampla Juniors 1; River Plate 1 Liverpool 2; Cerrito 1 Penarol 1; Cerro 5 Dep Colonia 1; Wanderers 2 Rentistas 1; Bella Vista 1 Central Espanol 0.
June 14: Nacional 1 Miramar Misiones 0; Cerro 1 Defensor 1; Liverpool 2 Dep Colonia 1; Danubio 4 Tacuarembo 2; Bella Vista 1 River Plate 0; Central Espanol 0 Rentistas 2; Rampla Juniors 1 Rocha 0; Penarol 1 Wanderers 5.
June 16: Rocha 2 Miramar Misiones 2.
June 17: Nacional 1 Danubio 2; Tacuarembo 0 Wanderers 0.
June 18: Rocha 0 Penarol 1.
June 19: Defensor 1 River Plate 0; Cerrito 1 Liverpool 1; Rentistas 1 Cerro 3; Rampla Juniors 3 Central Espanol 1; Miramar Misiones 0 Bella Vista 2.

URUGUAY – CLOSING – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nacional	16	12	2	2	31	12	38
Defensor	16	10	5	1	34	15	35
Danubio	16	9	3	4	31	24	30
Central	16	8	3	5	19	16	27
Liverpool	16	7	4	5	27	27	25
Rentistas	16	7	3	6	28	22	24
Cerrito	16	5	8	3	17	16	23
Rampla Jnrs	16	6	5	5	24	29	23
River Plate	16	6	2	8	19	20	20
Bella Vista	16	5	4	7	18	19	19
Tacuarembo	16	4	6	6	12	19	18
Wanderers	16	4	4	8	18	19	16
Cerro*	16	6	3	7	23	16	15
M Misiones	16	3	5	8	17	30	14
Rocha	16	3	3	10	18	29	12
Dep Colonia	16	3	2	11	12	30	11
Penarol*	16	5	4	7	20	25	7

**Penarol and Cerro had 12pts and 6pts deducted respectively because of fan violence*

OVERALL CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFF

(opening winners v closing winners)
1st leg - June 22
Rocha 1 (Caro 54)
Nacional 4 (Vasquez 22, 45, Suarez 51, Garces 88)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Prudente
Sent off: Juarez (Nacional) 52min; Sosa (Rocha) 68min

2nd leg - June 25
Nacional 2 (Suarez 62, Vasquez 77)
Rocha 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Silvera
Sent off: Aldave (Rocha) 85min
Nacional 6-1 on agg

CENTRAL & NORTH AMERICA

UNITED STATES

June 3: DC United 1 New England Revolution 0; FC Dallas 1 Columbus Crew 2; Houston Dynamo 2 Los Angeles Galaxy 1; Kansas City Wizards 1 New York Red Bulls 1; Real Salt Lake 3 Chicago Fire 1; Chivas USA 4 Colorado Rapids 1.
June 8: Los Angeles Galaxy 1 Chivas USA 2.
June 9: Colorado Rapids 1 Real Salt Lake 0.
June 10: New York Red Bulls 1 Houston Dynamo 1; Columbus Crew 0 Kansas City Wizards 1.
June 11: FC Dallas 2 Chivas USA 1; Chicago Fire 3 New England Revolution 3; Los Angeles Galaxy 1 DC United 1.
June 17: New York Red Bulls 2 Los Angeles Galaxy 1; Kansas City Wizards 3 Chicago Fire 2; Houston Dynamo 2 Real Salt Lake 1; New England Revolution 1 DC United 1.
June 18: Chivas USA 2 Columbus Crew 0.
June 21: DC United 1 Chicago Fire 0; Columbus Crew 1 New England Revolution 1; Colorado Rapids 1 Chivas USA 1.
June 24: Columbus Crew 1 Chivas USA 1; DC United 1 Kansas City Wizards 0; FC Dallas 1 Colorado Rapids 0; Real Salt Lake 0 New England Revolution 0; Los Angeles Galaxy 0 Houston Dynamo 0.
June 25: Chicago Fire 2 New York Red Bulls 0.
June 28: New York Red Bulls 0 Columbus Crew 0; Kansas City Wizards 2 DC United 3; Chicago Fire 2 Real Salt Lake 1; New England Revolution 1 FC Dallas 0; Chivas USA 1 Houston Dynamo 1.
July 1: New England Revolution 3 New York Red Bulls 2; Kansas City Wizards 0 Los Angeles Galaxy 2; Chivas USA 3 FC Dallas 0.
July 4: Chicago Fire 1 Kansas City Wizards 0; Houston Dynamo 1 Columbus Crew 1; FC Dallas 0 DC United 1; Colorado Rapids 3 New England Revolution 2; Real Salt Lake 0 Chivas USA 0; Los Angeles Galaxy 1 New York Red Bulls 0.
July 8: Houston Dynamo 3 Chivas USA 1; Columbus Crew 0 DC United 1; FC Dallas 2 New York Red Bulls 1; Chicago Fire 1 New England Revolution 2; Colorado Rapids 1 Kansas City Wizards 0; Los Angeles Galaxy 2 Real Salt Lake 0.
July 14: New York Red Bulls 1 Colorado Rapids 0; New England Revolution 1 Real Salt Lake 3.
July 15: Chicago Fire 2 FC Dallas 3; DC United 3 Columbus Crew 2; Kansas City Wizards 2 Houston Dynamo 3; Chivas USA 0 Los Angeles Galaxy 0.
July 19: Columbus Crew 0 New York Red Bulls 2.
July 20: Colorado Rapids 3 Chivas USA 3.
July 22: Columbus Crew 1 Los Angeles Galaxy 1; New York Red Bulls 1 Kansas City Wizards 0; Chicago Fire 1 DC United 1; Houston Dynamo 1 New England Revolution 1; Real Salt Lake 0 FC Dallas 1.
July 26: Real Salt Lake 3 Chivas USA 3; Colorado Rapids 1 Houston Dynamo 0.

USA – EASTERN CONFERENCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
DC United	20	13	6	1	37	17	45
New England	19	6	7	6	25	25	25
New York	19	5	8	6	22	25	23
Chicago Fire	18	5	6	7	24	26	21
Kansas City	19	6	2	11	21	27	20
Columbus	20	4	7	9	16	28	19

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Dallas	19	11	3	5	31	24	36
Houston	19	8	7	4	29	23	31
Colorado	18	8	4	6	24	25	28
Chivas USA	20	6	8	6	32	28	26
LA Galaxy	20	5	5	10	16	24	20
Real Salt Lake	19	4	5	10	23	28	17

LEADING GOALSCORERS
12 Ante Razov (Chivas USA)
10 Brian Ching (Houston Dynamo)
9 Jeff Cunningham (Real Salt Lake)
9 Jaime Moreno (DC United)

AFRICA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Group A
July 15: CS Sfaxien (Tun) 1 Al Ahly (Egy) 0.
July 16: JS Kabylie (Alg) 1 Asante Kotoko (Gha) 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CS Sfaxien	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
JS Kabylie	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Al Ahly	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Asante Kotoko	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

Group B
July 16: Hearts of Oak (Gha) 0 Enyimba (Nig) 2.
July 18: Orlando Pirates (SAf) 1 ASEC Abidjan (IvC) 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Enyimba	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
ASEC Abidjan	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Orlando Pirates	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Hearts of Oak	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

CONFEDERATION CUP

Intermediate round

1st legs - July 14/15/16
Al Hilal (Sud) 0 Olympique Khouribga (Mor) 0
Etoile Sahel (Tun) 4 Moro United (Tan) 1
FAR Rabat (Mor) 2 NA Hussein-Dey (Alg) 0
Port Autonome (Sen) 0 Petro Atletico (Ang) 1
Raja Casablanca (Mor) 0 Esperance (Tun) 0
Renacimiento (EqG) 5 Heartland (Nig) 0
FC St Eloi Lupopo (DRC) 2 Al Merreikh (Sud) 0
USCAFOOT (Mad) 0 InterClube (Ang) 0

EGYPT

EGYPT – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Al Ahly	26	23	3	0	57	6	72
Zamalek	26	18	4	4	48	22	58
ENPPI	26	13	7	6	32	18	46
Ismaili	26	12	3	11	33	32	39
Sawahel	26	11	5	10	35	25	38
Al Jaish	26	10	4	12	28	31	34
Al Ittihad	26	8	8	10	19	28	32
Al Masry	26	8	7	11	27	30	31
Mokawloon	26	8	4	14	26	34	28
Suez Cement	26	6	10	10	28	45	28
Al-Mehalla	26	6	9	11	21	34	27
Assiout Cement	26	6	8	12	26	36	26
Aluminium	26	6	7	13	16	36	25
Koroum	26	5	5	16	22	41	20

MOROCCO

MOROCCO – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wydad	30	17	10	3	33	16	61
FAR	30	16	10	4	41	14	58
Olympique K	30	15	8	7	44	23	53
Raja	30	13	12	5	34	24	51
Has'nia Agadir	30	14	7	9	31	24	49
Omnisport	30	10	11	9	23	25	41
Difah Hassani	30	8	16	6	29	26	40
Ittihad Z'ouri	30	8	12	10	20	26	36
AS Sale	30	8	11	11	18	26	35
Olympique S	30	9	7	14	26	27	34
Mouloudia CO	30	8	10	12	27	30	34
Magh'b Tetouan	30	7	12	11	19	27	33
Jeunesse SM	30	5	17	8	23	26	32
Ittihad Ryadi	30	6	11	13	22	29	29
Chabab M'edia	30	6	9	15	15	35	27
US Touarga*	30	4	9	17	12	39	19

**2pts deducted for failing to show for round 16 game*

SENEGAL

SENEGAL – CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFFS – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AS Douanes	6	4	2	0	12	4	14
ASC Diaraf	6	1	4	1	8	8	7
US Goree	6	1	3	2	6	11	6
ASC HLM	6	0	3	3	4	7	3

SOUTH AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mamelodi S	30	16	9	5	45	19	57
Orlando P'tes	30	14	12	4	39	24	54
Kaizer Chiefs	30	12	14	4	39	26	50
Moroka S'llows	30	12	10	8	39	33	46
Silver Stars	30	11	9	10	34	32	42
Golden Arrows	30	9	13	8	32	28	40
SuperSport Utd	30	10	10	10	43	41	40
Cape Town S	30	7	17	6	35	32	38
Jomo Cosmos	30	10	8	12	31	32	38
B'fontein Celtic	30	9	10	11	35	37	37
Ajax Cape Town	30	8	11	11	40	42	35
Black Leopards	30	9	7	14	31	39	34
Dynamos	30	7	10	13	24	38	31
Tembisa Classic	30	7	9	14	23	37	30
U Bush Bucks	30	6	12	12	25	48	30
Free State Stars	30	4	17	9	34	41	29

TUNISIA

TUNISIA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Esperance T	26	17	5	4	42	21	56
Etoile Sahel	26	16	7	3	30	11	55
Club Africain	26	12	11	3	37	19	47
CS Sfaxien	26	12	9	5	35	16	45
US Monastir	26	11	8	7	22	20	41
Esperance Z	26	7	9	10	20	26	30
Stade Tunisien	26	7	8	11	24	25	29
El-Gawafel	26	6	11	9	28	36	29
AS Marsa	26	6	10	10	19	30	28
Hammam-Lif	26	7	7	12	28	41	28
CA Bizertin	26	4	13	9	15	23	25
Etoile O'pique	26	5	10	11	16	30	25
Jendouba Sp	26	5	9	12	16	22	24
Kairouanaise	26	5	7	14	24	36	22

ASIA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Quarter-finals draw

Al Ittihad (Sau) v Al Karama (Syr)
Al Qadisiya (Kuw) v Al Ain (UAE)
Shanghai Shenhua (Chn) v Chonbuk Motors (SKo)
Ulsan Hyundai (SKo) v Al Shabab (Sau)
1st legs - September 13; 2nd legs - September 20

AFC CUP

Group A
Apr 11: Muharraq (Bhn) 1 Mahindra United (Ind) 1.
Apr 18: Brothers Union (Ban) 1 Al Ahed (Leb) 3.
Apr 25: Al Ahed 6 Brothers Union 2; Mahindra United 0 Muharraq 1.
May 2: Brothers Union 0 Muharraq 0; Mahindra United 2 Al Ahed 1.
May 16: Mahindra United 1 Brothers Union 0; Muharraq 2 Al Ahed 4.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Muharraq	6	3	2	1	8	5	11
Al Ahed	6	3	1	2	16	11	10
Mahindra Utd	6	2	3	1	8	7	9
Brothers Union	6	0	2	4	5	14	2

Group B
Apr 11: Al Nasr (Oma) 4 MERW (Tkm) 1.
**

EUROPE: WHO GOES WHERE

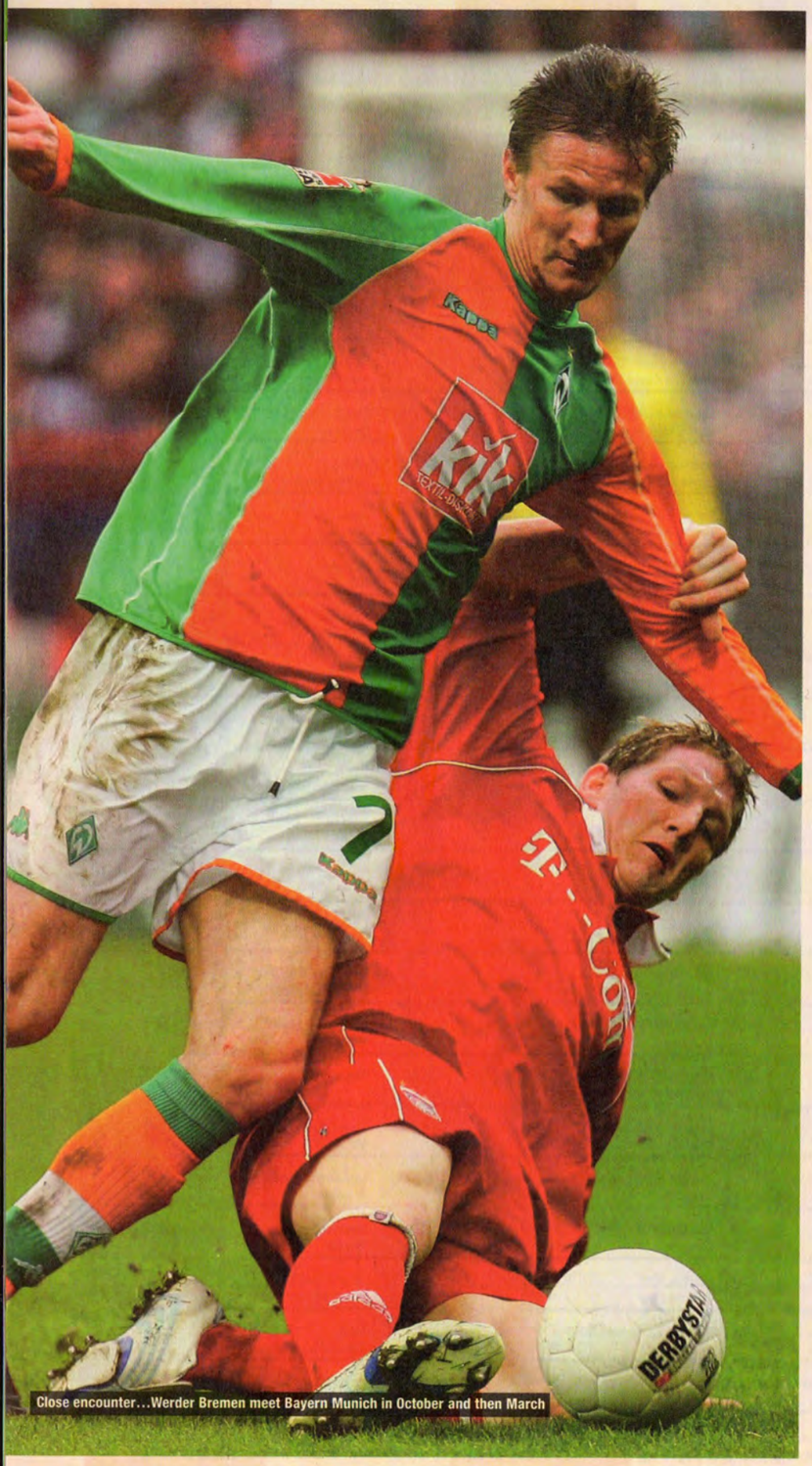
All the 2006-07 UEFA club competition representatives are decided. Here's the breakdown, country by country, plus all the ups and downs in each domestic top flight

COUNTRY	CHAMPIONS LEAGUE GROUP STAGE	CHAMPIONS LEAGUE QUALIFIERS	UEFA CUP	INTERTOTO CUP	RELEGATED	PROMOTED
ALBANIA		Elbasani	SK Tirana (CW), Dinamo Tirana	Partizani	Skenderbeu, Lushnja	Flamurtari, Apolonia, Kastrioti, Luftetari
ANDORRA			Ranger's	Sant Julia	Extremenya	Encamp
ARMENIA*		Pyunik	Mika Ashtarak (CW), Banants	Kilikia	Lernayin	Ararat-2, Gandzasar, Yerevan United
AUSTRIA		Austria Wien, Salzburg	Mattersburg (CF), Pasching	SV Ried*	Admira	Rheindorf Altach
AZERBAIJAN		FK Baku	Garabagh (CW), Karvan	MKT Araz	MOIK, Goyazan	Gilan, Simurg
BELARUS*		Shakhtyor	BATE Borisov (CW), Dinamo Minsk	MTZ-Ripo	Zvezda BDU, Slavia Mozyr	Belshina, Lokomotiv Vitebsk
BELGIUM	Anderlecht	Standard Liege	Zulte-Waregem (CW), Club Brugge, Roeselare (FP)	Gent	La Louviere	Mons
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA		Siroki Brijeg	Orasje (CW), Sarajevo	Zrinjski	Travnik, Buducnost	Velez, Borac
BULGARIA		Levski Sofia	CSKA Sofia (CW), Litex Lovech, Lokomotiv Sofia	Lokomotiv Plovdiv	Pirin 1922, Naftex	Rilski, Spartak Varna, Koneliano
CROATIA		Dinamo Zagreb	Rijeka (CW), Varteks	Osijek	Inter Zapresic	Sibenik
CYPRUS		Apollon	APOEL (CW), Omonia	Ethnikos Achnas*	APOP, APEP, ENTHOI	AE Pafos, Aris, Ayia Napa
CZECH REPUBLIC		Slovan Liberec, Mlada Boleslav	Sparta Prague (CW), Slavia Prague	Teplice	Vysocina Jihlava, Chmel Blsany	Kladno, Ceske Budejovice
DENMARK		FC Copenhagen	Randers (CW), Brondby	OB*	SonderjyskE, AGF	Vejle, Randers
ENGLAND	Chelsea, Manchester Utd	Liverpool, Arsenal	West Ham (CF), Tottenham, Blackburn	Newcastle*	Birmingham, West Brom, Sunderland	Reading, Sheffield Utd, Watford
ESTONIA*		TVMK	Flora (CF), Levadia	Trans Narva	Kuressaare, Dunamo	Vaprus, Ajax
FAROE ISLANDS*		B36	GI (CW), Skala	HB	TB	B68
FINLAND*		MyPa	FC Haka (CW), HJK	Tampere Utd	RoPS, TP-47	Honka, VPS
FRANCE	Lyon, Bordeaux	Lille	Paris Saint-Germain (CW), Nancy (LC), Lens	Marseille,* Auxerre*	Ajaccio, Strasbourg, Metz	Valenciennes, Sedan, Lorient
GEORGIA		Sioni Bolnisi	Ameri (CW), WIT Georgia	Dinamo Tbilisi	Dinamo Sokhumi, Spartaki	Chikhura, Merani
GERMANY	Bayern Munich, Werder Bremen	Hamburg	Eintracht Frankfurt (CF), Schalke, Bayer Leverkusen	Hertha*	Kaiserslautern, Koln, Duisburg	Bochum, Alemannia, Energie Cottbus
GREECE	Olympiakos	AEK Athens	Panathinaikos, Iraklis, Xanthi, Atromitos	Larisa	Levadiakos, Kallithea, Akratitos	Ergotelis, Kerkira, Aris
HOLLAND	PSV	Ajax	Groningen, AZ, Feyenoord, Heerenveen	Twente*	RBC	Excelsior
HUNGARY		Debrecen	Fehervar (CW), Ujpest	Sopron	Papa, Ferencvaros (expelled)	Dunakanyar-Vac, Paks
ICELAND*		FH	Valur (CW), IA	Keflavik	Fram, Throttur	Breidablik, Vikingur
IRELAND, REPUBLIC OF*		Cork City	Drogheda (CW), Derry City	Shelbourne	Shamrock Rovers, Finn Harps	Sligo Rovers, Dublin City
ISRAEL		Maccabi Haifa	Hapoel Tel Aviv (CW), Beitar Jerusalem, Bnei Yehuda	Maccabi Petach Tikva	Upper Nazareth, Bnei Sakhnin	Maccabi Hertzelia, HA Ramat Gan
ITALY	Internazionale, Roma	Milan, Chievo	Palermo, Livorno, Parma		Lecce, Treviso, Juventus	Atalanta, Catania, Torino
KAZAKHSTAN*		Aktobe	Tobol, Kairat	Shakhtyor	Zhetysu, Bolat	Energetik, Kaisar
LATVIA*		Metalurgs Liepaja	Ventspils (CW), Skonto	Dinaburg	Olimps, Venta	Dizvanagi, Ditton
LIECHTENSTEIN			Vaduz (CW)		n/a	n/a
LITHUANIA*		Ekranas	FBK Kaunas (CW), Suduva	Vetra	none	none
LUXEMBOURG		F91 Dudelange	Jeunesse d'Esch (CF), Etzella Ettelbruck	Grevenmacher	US Ramelange, Avenir Beggen	Differdange, Progres, Mondercange, Mamer
MACEDONIA		Rabotnicki	Makedonija (CW), Vardar	Pobeda	Cementarnica, Belasica	Pelister, Napredok
MALTA		Birkirkara	Hibernians (CW), Sliema Wanderers	Marsaxlokk	Mosta, Hamrun Spartans	St George's, Marsa
MOLDOVA		Serif	Nistru (CF), Zimbru	FC Tiraspol	none	Olimpia Iscra-Stali
NORTHERN IRELAND		Linfield	Glentoran (CF), Portadown	Dungannon	Institute, Ards	Crusaders, Donegal Celtic
NORWAY*		Valerenga	Molde (CW), Start, Lyn, Brann (FP)	Lillestrom	Aalesund, Bodo/Glimt	Stabaek, Sandefjord
POLAND		Legia	Wisla Plock (CW), Wisla Krakow, Zaglebie	Lech	Polonia	Widzew Lodz, LKS Lodz
PORTUGAL	FC Porto, Sporting Lisbon	Benfica	Setubal (CF), Sporting Braga, Nacional		Belenenses, Rio Ave, Guimaraes, Penafiel	Beira Mar, Aves
ROMANIA		Steaua Bucharest	Rapid Bucharest (CW), Dinamo Bucharest	Farul	Bacau, Sportul (expelled)	Ceahlaul, Univ. Craiova, UTA Arad, Urziceni
RUSSIA*		CSKA Moscow, Spartak Moscow	Lokomotiv Moscow, Rubin Kazan	FC Moscow	Alaniya, Terek	Luch-Energiya, Spartak Nalchik
SAN MARINO			Murata			
SCOTLAND	Celtic	Hearts	Gretna (CF), Rangers	Hibernian	Livingston	St Mirren
SERBIA & MONTENEGRO		Red Star	OFK (CF), Partizan, Hajduk Kula	Zeta	Habitfarm, Rad, B'nost P, Obilic, Jedinstvo BP	Bezanija, Mladost
SLOVAKIA		Ruzomberok	Spartak Trnava (CF), Artmedia	Nitra	Matador Puchov	Kosice, Slovan Bratislava, Senec
SLOVENIA		Gorica	Koper (CW), Domzale	Maribor*	Rudar	Factor
SPAIN	Barcelona, Real Madrid	Valencia, Osasuna	Espanyol (CW), Sevilla, Celta Vigo	Villarreal	Alaves, Cadiz, Malaga	Recreativo, Gimnastic, Levante
SWEDEN*		Djurgardens	Atvidabergs (CF), IFK Gothenburg, Gefle (FP)	Kalmar	Landskrona, Sundsvall, Assyriska	AIK, Osters, GAIS
SWITZERLAND		Zurich	Sion (CW), Basle, Young Boys	Grasshopper*	Neuchatel Xamax, Yverdon	Lucerne, Sion
TURKEY		Galatasaray, Fenerbahce	Besiktas (CW), Trabzonspor	Kayserispor*	Malatyaspor, Samsunspor, Diyarbakirspor	Bursaspor, Antalyaspor, Sakaryaspor
UKRAINE		Shakhtar Donetsk, Kyiv Dynamo	Metalurh Zaporizhzhya (CF), Chornomorets	Dnipro	Volyn, Zakarpattya	Zorya, Karpaty
WALES		Total Network Solutions	Rhyl (CW), Llanelli	Carmarthen	Grange Quins	none

Qualification for the UEFA Cup is by virtue of finishing position in domestic league except where stated – as domestic cup winners (CW), losing domestic cup finalists (CF), domestic league cup winners (LC), fair play entrants (FP)

**InterToto Cup entrants marked with an asterisk have now qualified for the UEFA Cup*
**Qualification for countries marked with an asterisk is based on 2005 domestic league season*

FIXTURES 2006-07



Close encounter...Werder Bremen meet Bayern Munich in October and then March

FRANCE

Friday, August 4, 2006
Nantes v Lyon

Saturday, August 5
Lens v Troyes
Nancy v Monaco
Le Mans v Nice
Rennes v Lille
Paris Saint-Germain v Lorient
Bordeaux v Toulouse
Auxerre v Valenciennes
Saint-Etienne v Sochaux

Sunday, August 6
Sedan v Marseille

Saturday, August 12
Nancy v Sedan
Nice v Nantes
Lyon v Toulouse
Troyes v Le Mans
Sochaux v Auxerre
Lorient v Bordeaux
Monaco v Saint-Etienne
Valenciennes v Paris Saint-Germain

Sunday, August 13
Lille v Lens
Marseille v Rennes

Saturday, August 19
Lens v Lorient
Nantes v Troyes
Rennes v Monaco
Sedan v Sochaux
Paris Saint-Germain v Lille
Auxerre v Marseille
Saint-Etienne v Nancy
Le Mans v Valenciennes

Sunday, August 20
Bordeaux v Lyon
Toulouse v Nice

Saturday, August 26
Nice v Lyon
Monaco v Sedan
Nancy v Auxerre
Lille v Bordeaux
Lorient v Nantes
Troyes v Toulouse
Sochaux v Paris Saint-Germain
Marseille v Le Mans

Sunday, August 27
Saint-Etienne v Lens
Valenciennes v Rennes

Saturday, September 9
Lyon v Troyes
Nantes v Lille
Bordeaux v Nice
Toulouse v Nancy
Rennes v Sochaux
Auxerre v Monaco
Le Mans v Lorient
Lens v Valenciennes
Paris Saint-Germain v Marseille
Sedan v Saint-Etienne

Saturday, September 16
Troyes v Nice
Nancy v Rennes
Sochaux v Lens
Lorient v Lyon
Sedan v Le Mans
Lille v Toulouse
Monaco v Paris Saint-Germain
Marseille v Bordeaux
Valenciennes v Nantes
Saint-Etienne v Auxerre

Saturday, September 23
Lyon v Lille
Lens v Monaco
Auxerre v Sedan
Paris Saint-Germain v Nancy
Bordeaux v Troyes
Le Mans v Sochaux
Nantes v Marseille
Toulouse v Lorient
Nice v Valenciennes
Rennes v Saint-Etienne

Saturday, September 30
Nancy v Lens
Lille v Nice
Sedan v Rennes
Sochaux v Lyon
Lorient v Troyes
Monaco v Le Mans
Auxerre v Nantes
Marseille v Toulouse
Valenciennes v Bordeaux
Saint-Etienne v Paris Saint-Germain

Saturday, October 14
Nice v Lorient
Troyes v Lille
Le Mans v Nancy
Lens v Marseille
Nantes v Sochaux
Paris Saint-Germain v Sedan
Rennes v Auxerre
Bordeaux v Monaco
Lyon v Saint-Etienne
Toulouse v Valenciennes

Saturday, October 21
Sedan v Lens
Rennes v Nice
Nancy v Nantes
Lille v Lorient
Marseille v Lyon
Monaco v Toulouse
Sochaux v Bordeaux
Auxerre v Paris Saint-Germain
Valenciennes v Troyes
Saint-Etienne v Le Mans

Saturday, October 28
Lyon v Nancy
Lens v Auxerre
Le Mans v Lille
Nantes v Monaco
Nice v Marseille
Bordeaux v Sedan
Paris Saint-Germain v Rennes
Toulouse v Sochaux
Troyes v Saint-Etienne
Lorient v Valenciennes

Saturday, November 4
Monaco v Nice
Rennes v Lyon
Sedan v Nantes
Paris Saint-Germain v Lens
Nancy v Bordeaux
Sochaux v Troyes
Auxerre v Le Mans
Marseille v Lorient
Valenciennes v Lille
Saint-Etienne v Toulouse

Saturday, November 11
Lens v Rennes
Nice v Sochaux
Lorient v Nancy
Troyes v Monaco
Toulouse v Sedan
Lille v Marseille
Le Mans v Paris Saint-Germain
Bordeaux v Auxerre
Lyon v Valenciennes
Nantes v Saint-Etienne

Saturday, November 18
Sedan v Lyon
Lens v Nantes
Nancy v Troyes
Sochaux v Lille
Monaco v Lorient
Rennes v Le Mans
Auxerre v Toulouse
Paris Saint-Germain v Bordeaux
Saint-Etienne v Nice
Marseille v Valenciennes

Saturday, November 25
Nice v Sedan
Le Mans v Lens
Lille v Monaco
Lyon v Auxerre
Lorient v Sochaux
Nantes v Paris Saint-Germain
Toulouse v Rennes
Troyes v Marseille
Valenciennes v Nancy
Bordeaux v Saint-Etienne

Saturday, December 2
Nancy v Lille
Le Mans v Lyon
Sedan v Troyes
Auxerre v Nice
Lens v Bordeaux
Rennes v Nantes
Sochaux v Marseille
Paris Saint-Germain v Toulouse
Monaco v Valenciennes
Saint-Etienne v Lorient

Saturday, December 9
Nice v Nancy
Toulouse v Lens
Lorient v Sedan
Lyon v Paris Saint-Germain
Nantes v Le Mans
Troyes v Auxerre
Bordeaux v Rennes
Marseille v Monaco
Lille v Saint-Etienne
Valenciennes v Sochaux

Saturday, December 16
Lens v Lyon
Sedan v Lille
Paris Saint-Germain v Nice
Rennes v Troyes
Monaco v Sochaux
Nancy v Marseille
Nantes v Bordeaux
Auxerre v Lorient
Le Mans v Toulouse
Saint-Etienne v Valenciennes

Saturday, December 23
Nice v Lens
Lyon v Monaco
Sochaux v Nancy
Lille v Auxerre
Lorient v Rennes
Toulouse v Nantes
Troyes v Paris Saint-Germain
Bordeaux v Le Mans
Valenciennes v Sedan
Marseille v Saint-Etienne

Saturday, January 13, 2007
Lens v Lille
Sedan v Nancy
Nantes v Nice
Toulouse v Lyon
Le Mans v Troyes
Rennes v Marseille
Auxerre v Sochaux
Bordeaux v Lorient
Saint-Etienne v Monaco
Paris Saint-Germain v Valenciennes

Wednesday, January 24
Lorient v Lens
Lyon v Bordeaux
Troyes v Nantes
Monaco v Rennes
Sochaux v Sedan
Nice v Toulouse
Lille v Paris Saint-Germain
Marseille v Auxerre
Nancy v Saint-Etienne
Valenciennes v Le Mans

Saturday, January 27
Lyon v Nice
Sedan v Monaco
Auxerre v Nancy
Bordeaux v Lille
Nantes v Lorient
Toulouse v Troyes
Paris Saint-Germain v Sochaux
Le Mans v Marseille
Lens v Saint-Etienne
Rennes v Valenciennes

Saturday, February 3
Troyes v Lyon
Lille v Nantes
Nice v Bordeaux
Nancy v Toulouse
Sochaux v Rennes
Monaco v Auxerre
Lorient v Le Mans
Valenciennes v Lens
Marseille v Paris Saint-Germain
Saint-Etienne v Sedan

Saturday, February 10
Nice v Troyes
Rennes v Nancy
Lens v Sochaux
Lyon v Lorient
Le Mans v Sedan
Toulouse v Lille
Paris Saint-Germain v Monaco
Bordeaux v Marseille
Nantes v Valenciennes
Auxerre v Saint-Etienne

Saturday, February 17
Lille v Lyon
Monaco v Lens
Sedan v Auxerre
Nancy v Paris Saint-Germain
Troyes v Bordeaux
Sochaux v Le Mans
Marseille v Nantes
Lorient v Toulouse
Valenciennes v Nice
Saint-Etienne v Rennes

Saturday, February 24
Lens v Nancy
Nice v Lille
Rennes v Sedan
Lyon v Sochaux
Troyes v Lorient
Le Mans v Monaco
Nantes v Auxerre
Toulouse v Marseille
Bordeaux v Valenciennes
Paris Saint-Germain v Saint-Etienne

Saturday, March 3
Lorient v Nice
Lille v Troyes
Nancy v Le Mans
Marseille v Lens
Sochaux v Nantes
Sedan v Paris Saint-Germain
Auxerre v Rennes
Monaco v Bordeaux
Saint-Etienne v Lyon
Valenciennes v Toulouse

Saturday, March 10
Lens v Sedan
Nice v Rennes
Nantes v Nancy
Lorient v Lille
Lyon v Marseille
Toulouse v Monaco
Bordeaux v Sochaux
Paris Saint-Germain v Auxerre
Troyes v Valenciennes
Le Mans v Saint-Etienne

Saturday, March 17
Nancy v Lyon
Auxerre v Lens
Lille v Le Mans
Monaco v Nantes
Marseille v Nice
Sedan v Bordeaux
Rennes v Paris Saint-Germain
Sochaux v Toulouse
Saint-Etienne v Troyes
Valenciennes v Lorient

Sunday, April 1
Nice v Monaco
Lyon v Rennes
Nantes v Sedan
Lens v Paris Saint-Germain
Bordeaux v Nancy
Troyes v Sochaux
Le Mans v Auxerre
Lorient v Marseille
Lille v Valenciennes
Toulouse v Saint-Etienne

Saturday, April 7
Rennes v Lens
Sochaux v Nice
Nancy v Lorient
Monaco v Troyes
Sedan v Toulouse
Marseille v Lille
Paris Saint-Germain v Le Mans
Auxerre v Bordeaux
Valenciennes v Lyon
Saint-Etienne v Nantes

Saturday, April 14
Lyon v Sedan
Nantes v Lens
Troyes v Nancy
Lille v Sochaux
Lorient v Monaco
Le Mans v Rennes
Toulouse v Auxerre
Bordeaux v Paris Saint-Germain
Nice v Saint-Etienne
Valenciennes v Marseille

Saturday, April 21
Sedan v Nice
Lens v Le Mans
Monaco v Lille
Auxerre v Lyon
Sochaux v Lorient
Paris Saint-Germain v Nantes
Rennes v Toulouse
Marseille v Troyes
Nancy v Valenciennes
Saint-Etienne v Bordeaux

Saturday, April 28
Lille v Nancy
Lyon v Le Mans
Troyes v Sedan
Nice v Auxerre
Bordeaux v Lens
Nantes v Rennes
Marseille v Sochaux
Toulouse v Paris Saint-Germain
Valenciennes v Monaco
Lorient v Saint-Etienne

Saturday, May 5
Nancy v Nice
Lens v Toulouse
Sedan v Lorient
Paris Saint-Germain v Lyon
Le Mans v Nantes
Auxerre v Troyes
Rennes v Bordeaux
Monaco v Marseille
Saint-Etienne v Lille
Sochaux v Valenciennes

Wednesday, May 9
Lyon v Lens
Lille v Sedan
Nice v Paris Saint-Germain
Troyes v Rennes
Sochaux v Monaco
Marseille v Nancy
Bordeaux v Nantes
Lorient v Auxerre
Toulouse v Le Mans
Valenciennes v Saint-Etienne

Saturday, May 19
Lens v Nice
Monaco v Lyon
Nancy v Sochaux
Auxerre v Lille
Rennes v Lorient
Nantes v Toulouse
Paris Saint-Germain v Troyes
Le Mans v Bordeaux
Sedan v Valenciennes
Saint-Etienne v Marseille

Saturday, May 26
Troyes v Lens
Lyon v Nantes
Monaco v Nancy
Nice v Le Mans
Lille v Rennes
Marseille v Sedan
Lorient v Paris Saint-Germain
Toulouse v Bordeaux
Valenciennes v Auxerre
Sochaux v Saint-Etienne

GERMANY

Friday, August 11, 2006
Bayern Munich v Borussia Dortmund

Saturday, August 12
Hamburg v Arminia Bielefeld
Schalke v Eintracht Frankfurt
Bayer Leverkusen v Alemannia Aachen
Stuttgart v Nurnberg
Monchengladbach v Energie Cottbus
Mainz v Bochum

Sunday, August 13
Hannover v Werder Bremen
Wolfsburg v Hertha

Friday, August 18
Nurnberg v Monchengladbach

Saturday, August 19
Werder Bremen v Bayer Leverkusen
Hertha v Hannover
Borussia Dortmund v Mainz
Eintracht Frankfurt v Wolfsburg
Energie Cottbus v Hamburg
Alemannia Aachen v Schalke

Sunday, August 20
Arminia Bielefeld v Stuttgart
Bochum v Bayern Munich

Friday, August 25
Schalke v Werder Bremen

Saturday, August 26
Bayern Munich v Nurnberg
Bayer Leverkusen v Wolfsburg
Stuttgart v Borussia Dortmund
Monchengladbach v Arminia Bielefeld
Hannover v Alemannia Aachen
Bochum v Energie Cottbus

Sunday, August 27
Hamburg v Hertha
Mainz v Eintracht Frankfurt

Friday, September 15
Wolfsburg v Hannover

Saturday, September 16
Werder Bremen v Stuttgart
Borussia Dortmund v Hamburg
Nurnberg v Bochum
Arminia Bielefeld v Bayern Munich
Alemannia Aachen v Monchengladbach
Energie Cottbus v Mainz

Sunday, September 17
Hertha v Schalke
Eintracht Frankfurt v Bayer Leverkusen

Friday, September 22
Monchengladbach v Borussia Dortmund

Saturday, September 23
Bayern Munich v Alemannia Aachen
Hamburg v Werder Bremen
Schalke v Wolfsburg
Stuttgart v Eintracht Frankfurt
Mainz v Hertha
Hannover v Bayer Leverkusen

Sunday, September 24
Bochum v Arminia Bielefeld
Energie Cottbus v Nurnberg

Saturday, September 30
Werder Bremen v Monchengladbach
Bayer Leverkusen v Schalke
Hertha v Stuttgart
Borussia Dortmund v Hannover
Nurnberg v Mainz
Arminia Bielefeld v Energie Cottbus
Eintracht Frankfurt v Hamburg
Wolfsburg v Bayern Munich
Alemannia Aachen v Bochum

Saturday, October 14
Bayern Munich v Hertha
Hamburg v Schalke
Nurnberg v Arminia Bielefeld
Stuttgart v Bayer Leverkusen
Monchengladbach v Wolfsburg
Mainz v Alemannia Aachen
Hannover v Eintracht Frankfurt
Bochum v Werder Bremen
Energie Cottbus v Borussia Dortmund

Saturday, October 21
Werder Bremen v Bayern Munich
Schalke v Hannover
Bayer Leverkusen v Hamburg
Hertha v Monchengladbach
Borussia Dortmund v Bochum
Arminia Bielefeld v Mainz
Eintracht Frankfurt v Nurnberg
Wolfsburg v Stuttgart
Alemannia Aachen v Energie Cottbus

Saturday, October 28
Bayern Munich v Eintracht Frankfurt
Hamburg v Hannover
Nurnberg v Borussia Dortmund
Stuttgart v Schalke
Monchengladbach v Bayer Leverkusen
Mainz v Werder Bremen
Arminia Bielefeld v Alemannia Aachen
Bochum v Wolfsburg
Energie Cottbus v Hertha

Saturday, November 4
Werder Bremen v Energie Cottbus
Schalke v Bayern Munich
Bayer Leverkusen v Mainz
Hertha v Nurnberg
Borussia Dortmund v Arminia Bielefeld
Hannover v Bochum
Eintracht Frankfurt v Monchengladbach
Wolfsburg v Hamburg
Alemannia Aachen v Stuttgart

Tuesday, November 7
Bayern Munich v Hannover
Borussia Dortmund v Alemannia Aachen
Nurnberg v Werder Bremen
Stuttgart v Hamburg
Monchengladbach v Schalke
Mainz v Wolfsburg
Arminia Bielefeld v Hertha
Bochum v Bayer Leverkusen
Energie Cottbus v Eintracht Frankfurt

Saturday, November 11
Werder Bremen v Borussia Dortmund
Hamburg v Monchengladbach
Schalke v Mainz
Bayer Leverkusen v Bayern Munich
Hertha v Bochum
Hannover v Stuttgart
Eintracht Frankfurt v Arminia Bielefeld
Wolfsburg v Energie Cottbus
Alemannia Aachen v Nurnberg

Saturday, November 18
Bayern Munich v Stuttgart
Borussia Dortmund v Hertha
Nurnberg v Bayer Leverkusen
Monchengladbach v Hannover
Mainz v Hamburg
Arminia Bielefeld v Wolfsburg
Bochum v Eintracht Frankfurt
Alemannia Aachen v Werder Bremen
Energie Cottbus v Schalke

Saturday, November 25
Werder Bremen v Arminia Bielefeld
Hamburg v Bayern Munich
Schalke v Bochum
Bayer Leverkusen v Energie Cottbus
Hertha v Alemannia Aachen
Stuttgart v Monchengladbach
Hannover v Mainz
Eintracht Frankfurt v Borussia Dortmund
Wolfsburg v Nurnberg

Saturday, December 2
Bayern Munich v Monchengladbach
Werder Bremen v Hertha
Borussia Dortmund v Wolfsburg
Nurnberg v Schalke
Mainz v Stuttgart
Arminia Bielefeld v Bayer Leverkusen
Bochum v Hamburg
Alemannia Aachen v Eintracht Frankfurt
Energie Cottbus v Hannover

Saturday, December 9
Bayern Munich v Energie Cottbus
Hamburg v Nurnberg
Schalke v Borussia Dortmund
Bayer Leverkusen v Hertha
Stuttgart v Bochum
Monchengladbach v Mainz
Hannover v Arminia Bielefeld
Eintracht Frankfurt v Werder Bremen
Wolfsburg v Alemannia Aachen

Saturday, December 16
Werder Bremen v Wolfsburg
Hertha v Eintracht Frankfurt
Borussia Dortmund v Bayer Leverkusen
Nurnberg v Hannover
Mainz v Bayern Munich
Arminia Bielefeld v Schalke
Bochum v Monchengladbach
Alemannia Aachen v Hamburg
Energie Cottbus v Stuttgart

Saturday, January 27, 2007
Borussia Dortmund v Bayern Munich
Arminia Bielefeld v Hamburg
Eintracht Frankfurt v Schalke
Alemannia Aachen v Bayer Leverkusen
Nurnberg v Stuttgart
Energie Cottbus v Monchengladbach
Bochum v Mainz
Werder Bremen v Hannover
Hertha v Wolfsburg

Wednesday, January 31
Bayer Leverkusen v Werder Bremen
Hannover v Hertha
Mainz v Borussia Dortmund
Monchengladbach v Nurnberg
Stuttgart v Arminia Bielefeld
Wolfsburg v Eintracht Frankfurt
Bayern Munich v Bochum
Schalke v Alemannia Aachen
Hamburg v Energie Cottbus

Saturday, February 3
Nurnberg v Bayern Munich
Hertha v Hamburg
Werder Bremen v Schalke
Wolfsburg v Bayer Leverkusen
Borussia Dortmund v Stuttgart
Arminia Bielefeld v Monchengladbach
Eintracht Frankfurt v Mainz
Alemannia Aachen v Hannover
Energie Cottbus v Bochum

Saturday, February 10
Stuttgart v Werder Bremen
Schalke v Hertha
Hamburg v Borussia Dortmund
Bochum v Nurnberg
Bayern Munich v Arminia Bielefeld
Bayer Leverkusen v Eintracht Frankfurt
Hannover v Wolfsburg
Monchengladbach v Alemannia Aachen
Mainz v Energie Cottbus

Saturday, February 17
Alemannia Aachen v Bayern Munich
Werder Bremen v Hamburg
Wolfsburg v Schalke
Eintracht Frankfurt v Stuttgart
Borussia Dortmund v Monchengladbach
Hertha v Mainz
Bayer Leverkusen v Hannover
Arminia Bielefeld v Bochum
Nurnberg v Energie Cottbus

Saturday, February 24
Monchengladbach v Werder Bremen
Schalke v Bayer Leverkusen
Stuttgart v Hertha
Hannover v Borussia Dortmund
Mainz v Nurnberg
Energie Cottbus v Arminia Bielefeld
Hamburg v Eintracht Frankfurt
Bayern Munich v Wolfsburg
Bochum v Alemannia Aachen

Saturday, March 3
Hertha v Bayern Munich
Schalke v Hamburg
Arminia Bielefeld v Nurnberg
Bayer Leverkusen v Stuttgart
Wolfsburg v Monchengladbach
Alemannia Aachen v Mainz
Eintracht Frankfurt v Hannover
Werder Bremen v Bochum
Borussia Dortmund v Energie Cottbus

Saturday, March 10
Bayern Munich v Werder Bremen
Hannover v Schalke
Hamburg v Bayer Leverkusen
Monchengladbach v Hertha
Bochum v Borussia Dortmund
Mainz v Arminia Bielefeld
Nurnberg v Eintracht Frankfurt
Stuttgart v Wolfsburg
Energie Cottbus v Alemannia Aachen

Saturday, March 17
Eintracht Frankfurt v Bayern Munich
Hannover v Hamburg
Borussia Dortmund v Nurnberg
Schalke v Stuttgart
Bayer Leverkusen v Monchengladbach
Werder Bremen v Mainz
Alemannia Aachen v Arminia Bielefeld
Wolfsburg v Bochum
Hertha v Energie Cottbus

Saturday, March 31
Energie Cottbus v Werder Bremen
Bayern Munich v Schalke
Mainz v Bayer Leverkusen
Nurnberg v Hertha
Arminia Bielefeld v Borussia Dortmund
Bochum v Hannover
Monchengladbach v Eintracht Frankfurt
Hamburg v Wolfsburg
Stuttgart v Alemannia Aachen

Saturday, April 7
Hannover v Bayern Munich
Alemannia Aachen v Borussia Dortmund
Werder Bremen v Nurnberg
Hamburg v Stuttgart
Schalke v Monchengladbach
Wolfsburg v Mainz
Hertha v Arminia Bielefeld
Bayer Leverkusen v Bochum
Eintracht Frankfurt v Energie Cottbus

Saturday, April 14
Borussia Dortmund v Werder Bremen
Monchengladbach v Hamburg
Mainz v Schalke
Bayern Munich v Bayer Leverkusen
Bochum v Hertha
Stuttgart v Hannover
Arminia Bielefeld v Eintracht Frankfurt
Energie Cottbus v Wolfsburg
Nurnberg v Alemannia Aachen

Saturday, April 21
Stuttgart v Bayern Munich
Hertha v Borussia Dortmund
Bayer Leverkusen v Nurnberg
Hannover v Monchengladbach
Hamburg v Mainz
Wolfsburg v Arminia Bielefeld
Eintracht Frankfurt v Bochum
Werder Bremen v Alemannia Aachen
Schalke v Energie Cottbus

Saturday, April 28
Arminia Bielefeld v Werder Bremen
Bayern Munich v Hamburg
Bochum v Schalke
Energie Cottbus v Bayer Leverkusen
Alemannia Aachen v Hertha
Monchengladbach v Stuttgart
Mainz v Hannover
Borussia Dortmund v Eintracht Frankfurt
Nurnberg v Wolfsburg

Saturday, May 5
Monchengladbach v Bayern Munich
Hertha v Werder Bremen
Wolfsburg v Borussia Dortmund
Schalke v Nurnberg
Stuttgart v Mainz
Bayer Leverkusen v Arminia Bielefeld
Hamburg v Bochum
Eintracht Frankfurt v Alemannia Aachen
Hannover v Energie Cottbus

Saturday, May 12
Energie Cottbus v Bayern Munich
Nurnberg v Hamburg
Borussia Dortmund v Schalke
Hertha v Bayer Leverkusen
Bochum v Stuttgart
Mainz v Monchengladbach
Arminia Bielefeld v Hannover
Werder Bremen v Eintracht Frankfurt
Alemannia Aachen v Wolfsburg

Saturday, May 19
Wolfsburg v Werder Bremen
Eintracht Frankfurt v Hertha
Bayer Leverkusen v Borussia Dortmund
Hannover v Nurnberg
Bayern Munich v Mainz
Schalke v Arminia Bielefeld
Monchengladbach v Bochum
Hamburg v Alemannia Aachen
Stuttgart v Energie Cottbus

HOLLAND

Friday, August 18, 2006
Sparta v Vitesse

Saturday, August 19
Willem II v Utrecht
Den Haag v Heerenveen
Excelsior v Roda JC

Sunday, August 20
Heracles v Twente
Ajax v RKC
AZ v NAC
Groningen v Feyenoord
PSV v NEC

Friday, August 25
Roda JC v Den Haag

Saturday, August 26
Heerenveen v Willem II
RKC v Excelsior
Utrecht v Sparta
Vitesse v AZ

Sunday, August 27
Feyenoord v Heracles
Twente v PSV
NEC v Groningen
NAC v Ajax

Friday, September 8
Twente v Roda JC
Den Haag v NAC

Saturday, September 9
Excelsior v Heerenveen
Willem II v PSV

Sunday, September 10
Sparta v Feyenoord
Ajax v Vitesse
NEC v AZ
Utrecht v RKC
Groningen v Heracles

Friday, September 15
RKC v Den Haag

Saturday, September 16
Heracles v Utrecht
Excelsior v Willem II
Vitesse v NAC

Sunday, September 17
AZ v Twente
PSV v Feyenoord
Roda JC v Ajax
Heerenveen v NEC
Sparta v Groningen

Friday, September 22
NAC v Willem II

Saturday, September 23
Twente v Sparta
Vitesse v Heracles
Den Haag v PSV

Sunday, September 24
Feyenoord v Excelsior
Ajax v NEC
Roda JC v AZ
Groningen v RKC
Utrecht v Heerenveen

Friday, September 29
NEC v Heracles

Saturday, September 30
Twente v RKC
Excelsior v Sparta
Willem II v Roda JC

Sunday, October 1
AZ v Den Haag
Feyenoord v NAC
Groningen v Vitesse
Heerenveen v PSV
Utrecht v Ajax

Friday, October 13
Den Haag v Twente

Saturday, October 14
Sparta v AZ
Vitesse v Willem II
Ajax v Groningen
NAC v NEC

Sunday, October 15
Heracles v Heerenveen
Excelsior v Utrecht
PSV v Roda JC
RKC v Feyenoord

Friday, October 20
Willem II v Heracles

Saturday, October 21
RKC v NAC
Roda JC v Sparta
Twente v Excelsior

Sunday, October 22
NEC v Vitesse
Heerenveen v Groningen
Utrecht v Den Haag
Feyenoord v Ajax
AZ v PSV

Wednesday, October 25
Ajax v Den Haag
Heracles v RKC
Vitesse v Heerenveen
Groningen v Excelsior
PSV v Sparta
NEC v Roda JC

Thursday, October 26
Willem II v AZ
Feyenoord v Twente
NAC v Utrecht

Saturday, October 28
Excelsior v Vitesse
Den Haag v Heracles
Heerenveen v Ajax
RKC v PSV

Sunday, October 29
Twente v NEC
Roda JC v Feyenoord
Sparta v Willem II
AZ v Utrecht
NAC v Groningen

Friday, November 3
NEC v Willem II

Saturday, November 4
Heerenveen v Sparta
PSV v NAC
Den Haag v Excelsior

Sunday, November 5
Feyenoord v Vitesse
Heracles v Ajax
Groningen v Roda JC
Utrecht v Twente
RKC v AZ

Friday, November 10
Excelsior v NEC

Saturday, November 11
AZ v Heracles
Roda JC v RKC
NAC v Heerenveen

Sunday, November 12
Twente v Groningen
Ajax v PSV
Willem II v Feyenoord
Sparta v Den Haag
Vitesse v Utrecht

Friday, November 17
Heracles v NAC

Saturday, November 18
Feyenoord v AZ
RKC v Heerenveen
PSV v Excelsior

Sunday, November 19
Utrecht v Roda JC
Groningen v Willem II
NEC v Sparta
Ajax v Twente
Den Haag v Vitesse

Friday, November 24
Twente v Vitesse

Saturday, November 25
Heerenveen v AZ
PSV v Utrecht
Willem II v RKC
Excelsior v Heracles

Sunday, November 26
Sparta v Ajax
Groningen v Den Haag
Roda JC v NAC
NEC v Feyenoord

Friday, December 1
RKC v Sparta

Saturday, December 2
Heracles v Roda JC
Den Haag v NEC
Vitesse v PSV

Sunday, December 3
Ajax v Willem II
AZ v Excelsior
Feyenoord v Heerenveen
Utrecht v Groningen
NAC v Twente

Friday, December 8
Heerenveen v Roda JC

Saturday, December 9
NEC v Utrecht
Groningen v PSV
Heracles v Sparta
NAC v Excelsior

Sunday, December 10
Feyenoord v Den Haag
Vitesse v RKC
Willem II v Twente
Ajax v AZ

Friday, December 15
PSV v Heracles

Saturday, December 16
Roda JC v Vitesse
Sparta v NAC
Den Haag v Willem II
AZ v Groningen

Sunday, December 17
Excelsior v Ajax
Twente v Heerenveen
RKC v NEC
Utrecht v Feyenoord

Friday, December 22
Heracles v Groningen

Saturday, December 23
Feyenoord v Sparta
PSV v Willem II
Heerenveen v Excelsior
NAC v Den Haag

Sunday, December 24
Roda JC v Twente
RKC v Utrecht
AZ v NEC
Vitesse v Ajax

Tuesday, December 26
Feyenoord v PSV
Willem II v Excelsior
Groningen v Sparta

Wednesday, December 27
Utrecht v Heracles
Twente v AZ
NEC v Heerenveen
Den Haag v RKC
Ajax v Roda JC
NAC v Vitesse

Friday, December 29
Excelsior v Feyenoord

Saturday, December 30
Sparta v Twente
Heerenveen v Utrecht
RKC v Groningen
PSV v Den Haag

Sunday, December 31
NEC v Ajax
Willem II v NAC
Heracles v Vitesse
AZ v Roda JC

Friday, January 19, 2007
Den Haag v AZ

Saturday, January 20
Heracles v NEC
Roda JC v Willem II
PSV v Heerenveen
RKC v Twente

Sunday, January 21
Ajax v Utrecht
Vitesse v Groningen
Sparta v Excelsior
NAC v Feyenoord

Friday, January 26
AZ v Sparta

Saturday, January 27
Willem II v Vitesse
Utrecht v Excelsior
Heerenveen v Heracles
NEC v NAC

Sunday, January 28
Twente v Den Haag
Roda JC v PSV
Groningen v Ajax
Feyenoord v RKC

Friday, February 2
Groningen v Heerenveen

Saturday, February 3
PSV v AZ
NAC v RKC
Heracles v Willem II
Excelsior v Twente

Sunday, February 4
Sparta v Roda JC
Vitesse v NEC
Den Haag v Utrecht
Ajax v Feyenoord

Friday, February 9
Excelsior v Groningen

Saturday, February 10
AZ v Willem II
Heerenveen v Vitesse
Roda JC v NEC
RKC v Heracles

Sunday, February 11
Utrecht v NAC
Twente v Feyenoord
Den Haag v Ajax
Sparta v PSV

Friday, February 16
NAC v Sparta
Willem II v Den Haag

Saturday, February 17
Vitesse v Roda JC
Heracles v PSV
NEC v RKC

Sunday, February 18
Heerenveen v Twente
Groningen v AZ
Ajax v Excelsior
Feyenoord v Utrecht

Friday, February 23
Utrecht v NEC

Saturday, February 24
PSV v Groningen
Roda JC v Heerenveen
Twente v Willem II
Sparta v Heracles

Sunday, February 25
RKC v Vitesse
AZ v Ajax
Den Haag v Feyenoord
Excelsior v NAC

Friday, March 2
Groningen v NAC

Saturday, March 3
PSV v RKC
NEC v Twente
Willem II v Sparta
Vitesse v Excelsior

Sunday, March 4
Feyenoord v Roda JC
Ajax v Heerenveen
Heracles v Den Haag
Utrecht v AZ

Friday, March 9
Roda JC v Utrecht

Saturday, March 10
NAC v Heracles
Heerenveen v RKC
Sparta v NEC
Willem II v Groningen

Sunday, March 11
Excelsior v PSV
AZ v Feyenoord
Vitesse v Den Haag
Twente v Ajax

Friday, March 16
RKC v Roda JC

Saturday, March 17
Heracles v AZ
NEC v Excelsior
Heerenveen v NAC
Den Haag v Sparta

Sunday, March 18
Feyenoord v Willem II
Utrecht v Vitesse
Groningen v Twente
PSV v Ajax

Friday, March 30
Willem II v NEC

Saturday, March 31
AZ v RKC
Roda JC v Groningen
NAC v PSV

Sunday, April 1
Twente v Utrecht
Vitesse v Feyenoord
Ajax v Heracles
Sparta v Heerenveen
Excelsior v Den Haag

Friday, April 6
Vitesse v Sparta

Saturday, April 7
NEC v PSV
Roda JC v Excelsior
Heerenveen v Den Haag
RKC v Ajax

Sunday, April 8
Utrecht v Willem II
Twente v Heracles
Feyenoord v Groningen
NAC v AZ

Friday, April 13
Sparta v Utrecht

Saturday, April 14
Excelsior v RKC
Den Haag v Roda JC
AZ v Vitesse
PSV v Twente

Sunday, April 15
Heracles v Feyenoord
Groningen v NEC
Ajax v NAC
Willem II v Heerenveen

Sunday, April 22
Den Haag v Groningen
Vitesse v Twente
Heracles v Excelsior
Ajax v Sparta
Feyenoord v NEC
AZ v Heerenveen
Utrecht v PSV
RKC v Willem II
NAC v Roda JC

Sunday, April 29
Sparta v RKC
PSV v Vitesse
Groningen v Utrecht
Heerenveen v Feyenoord
Roda JC v Heracles
Twente v NAC
NEC v Den Haag
Excelsior v AZ
Willem II v Ajax

EURO 2008 QUALIFIERS

Group A
16.08.06 Belgium-Kazakhstan
02.09.06 Poland-Finland
02.09.06 Serbia-Azerbaijan
06.09.06 Armenia-Belgium
06.09.06 Azerbaijan-Kaz'stan
06.09.06 Finland-Portugal
06.09.06 Poland-Serbia
07.10.06 Armenia-Finland
07.10.06 Kazakhstan-Poland
07.10.06 Portugal-Azerbaijan
07.10.06 Serbia-Belgium
11.10.06 Belgium-Azerbaijan
11.10.06 Kazakhstan-Finland
11.10.06 Poland-Portugal
11.10.06 Serbia-Armenia
15.11.06 Belgium-Poland
15.11.06 Finland-Armenia
15.11.06 Portugal-Kazakhstan
24.03.07 Kazakhstan-Serbia
24.03.07 Poland-Azerbaijan
24.03.07 Portugal-Belgium
28.03.07 Azerbaijan-Finland
28.03.07 Poland-Armenia
28.03.07 Serbia-Portugal
02.06.07 Azerbaijan-Poland
02.06.07 Belgium-Portugal
02.06.07 Finland-Serbia
02.06.07 Kazakhstan-Armenia
06.06.07 Armenia-Poland
06.06.07 Finland-Belgium
06.06.07 Kaz'stan-Azerbaijan
22.08.07 Armenia-Portugal
22.08.07 Belgium-Serbia
22.08.07 Finland-Kazakhstan
08.09.07 Azerbaijan-Armenia
08.09.07 Portugal-Poland
08.09.07 Serbia-Finland
12.09.07 Armenia-Azerbaijan
12.09.07 Finland-Poland
12.09.07 Kazakhstan-Belgium
12.09.07 Portugal-Serbia
13.10.07 Armenia-Serbia
13.10.07 Azerbaijan-Portugal
13.10.07 Belgium-Finland
13.10.07 Poland-Kazakhstan
17.10.07 Azerbaijan-Serbia
17.10.07 Belgium-Armenia
17.10.07 Kazakhstan-Portugal
17.11.07 Finland-Azerbaijan
17.11.07 Poland-Belgium
17.11.07 Portugal-Armenia
17.11.07 Serbia-Kazakhstan
21.11.07 Armenia-Kazakhstan
21.11.07 Azerbaijan-Belgium
21.11.07 Portugal-Finland
21.11.07 Serbia-Poland

Group B
16.08.06 Faroe Is-Georgia
02.09.06 Georgia-France
02.09.06 Italy-Lithuania
02.09.06 Scotland-Faroe Is
06.09.06 France-Italy
06.09.06 Lithuania-Scotland
06.09.06 Ukraine-Georgia
07.10.06 Faroe Is-Lithuania
07.10.06 Italy-Ukraine
07.10.06 Scotland-France
11.10.06 France-Faroe Is
11.10.06 Georgia-Italy
11.10.06 Ukraine-Scotland
24.03.07 Faroe Is-Ukraine
24.03.07 Lithuania-France
24.03.07 Scotland-Georgia
28.03.07 Georgia-Faroe Is
28.03.07 Italy-Scotland
28.03.07 Ukraine-Lithuania
02.06.07 France-Ukraine
02.06.07 Lithuania-Georgia
02.06.07 Faroe Is-Italy
06.06.07 Faroe Is-Scotland
06.06.07 France-Georgia
06.06.07 Lithuania-Italy
08.09.07 Georgia-Ukraine
08.09.07 Italy-France
08.09.07 Scotland-Lithuania
12.09.07 France-Scotland
12.09.07 Lithuania-Faroe Is
12.09.07 Ukraine-Italy
13.10.07 Faroe Is-France
13.10.07 Italy-Georgia
13.10.07 Scotland-Ukraine
17.10.07 France-Lithuania
17.10.07 Georgia-Scotland
17.10.07 Ukraine-Faroe Is
17.11.07 Lithuania-Ukraine
17.11.07 Scotland-Italy
21.11.07 Georgia-Lithuania
21.11.07 Italy-Faroe Is
21.11.07 Ukraine-France

Group C
02.09.06 Hungary-Norway
02.09.06 Malta-Bosnia-Herz
02.09.06 Moldova-Greece
06.09.06 Bosnia-Herz-Hungary
06.09.06 Norway-Moldova
06.09.06 Turkey-Malta
07.10.06 Greece-Norway
07.10.06 Hungary-Turkey
07.10.06 Moldova-Bosnia-Herz
11.10.06 Bosnia-Herz-Greece
11.10.06 Malta-Hungary
11.10.06 Turkey-Moldova
24.03.07 Greece-Turkey
24.03.07 Moldova-Malta
24.03.07 Norway-Bosnia-Herz
28.03.07 Hungary-Moldova
28.03.07 Malta-Greece
28.03.07 Turkey-Norway
02.06.07 Bosnia-Herz-Turkey
02.06.07 Greece-Hungary
02.06.07 Norway-Malta
06.06.07 Greece-Moldova
06.06.07 Bosnia-Herz-Malta
06.06.07 Norway-Hungary
08.09.07 Hungary-Bosnia-Herz
08.09.07 Malta-Turkey
08.09.07 Moldova-Norway
12.09.07 Bosnia-Herz-Moldova
12.09.07 Norway-Greece
12.09.07 Turkey-Hungary
13.10.07 Greece-Bosnia-Herz
13.10.07 Hungary-Malta
13.10.07 Moldova-Turkey
17.10.07 Bosnia-Herz-Norway
17.10.07 Malta-Moldova
17.10.07 Turkey-Greece
17.11.07 Greece-Malta
17.11.07 Moldova-Hungary
17.11.07 Norway-Turkey
21.11.07 Hungary-Greece
21.11.07 Malta-Norway
21.11.07 Turkey-Bosnia-Herz

Group D
02.09.06 Czech Rep-Wales
02.09.06 Germany-Rep Ireland
02.09.06 Slovakia-Cyprus
06.09.06 San Marino-Germany
06.09.06 Slovakia-Czech Rep
07.10.06 Cyprus-Rep Ireland
07.10.06 Czech Rep-S Marino
07.10.06 Wales-Slovakia
11.10.06 Rep Ire-Czech Rep
11.10.06 Slovakia-Germany
11.10.06 Wales-Cyprus
15.11.06 Cyprus-Germany
15.11.06 Rep Ireland-S Marino
07.02.07 S Marino-Rep Ire
24.03.07 Cyprus-Slovakia
24.03.07 Czech Rep-Germany
24.03.07 Rep Ireland-Wales
28.03.07 Czech Rep-Cyprus
28.03.07 Rep Ireland-Slovakia
28.03.07 Wales-San Marino
02.06.07 Germany-San Marino
02.06.07 Wales-Czech Rep
06.06.07 Germany-Slovakia
22.08.07 San Marino-Cyprus
08.09.07 S Marino-Czech Rep
08.09.07 Slovakia-Rep Ireland
08.09.07 Wales-Germany
12.09.07 Cyprus-San Marino
12.09.07 Czech Rep-Rep Ire
12.09.07 Slovakia-Wales
13.10.07 Cyprus-Wales
13.10.07 Rep Ireland-Germany
13.10.07 Slovakia-S Marino
17.10.07 Germany-Czech Rep
17.10.07 Rep Ireland-Cyprus
17.10.07 San Marino-Wales
17.11.07 Czech Rep-Slovakia
17.11.07 Germany-Cyprus
17.11.07 Wales-Rep Ireland
21.11.07 Cyprus-Czech Rep
21.11.07 Germany-Wales
21.11.07 San Marino-Slovakia

Group E
16.08.06 Estonia-Macedonia
02.09.06 England-Andorra
02.09.06 Estonia-Israel
06.09.06 Israel-Andorra
06.09.06 Macedonia-England
06.09.06 Russia-Croatia
07.10.06 Croatia-Andorra
07.10.06 England-Macedonia
07.10.06 Russia-Israel
11.10.06 Andorra-Macedonia
11.10.06 Croatia-England
11.10.06 Russia-Estonia
15.11.06 Israel-Croatia
15.11.06 Macedonia-Russia
24.03.07 Croatia-Macedonia
24.03.07 Estonia-Russia
24.03.07 Israel-England
28.03.07 Andorra-England
28.03.07 Israel-Estonia
02.06.07 Estonia-Croatia
02.06.07 Macedonia-Israel
02.06.07 Russia-Andorra
06.06.07 Andorra-Israel
06.06.07 Croatia-Russia
06.06.07 Estonia-England
22.08.07 Estonia-Andorra
08.09.07 Croatia-Estonia
08.09.07 England-Israel
08.09.07 Russia-Macedonia
12.09.07 Andorra-Croatia
12.09.07 England-Russia
12.09.07 Macedonia-Estonia
13.10.07 England-Estonia
17.10.07 Croatia-Israel
17.10.07 Macedonia-Andorra
17.10.07 Russia-England
17.11.07 Andorra-Estonia
17.11.07 Israel-Russia
17.11.07 Macedonia-Croatia
21.11.07 Andorra-Russia
21.11.07 England-Croatia
21.11.07 Israel-Macedonia

Group F
02.09.06 Latvia-Sweden
02.09.06 N Ireland-Iceland
02.09.06 Spain-Liechtenstein
06.09.06 Iceland-Denmark
06.09.06 N Ireland-Spain
06.09.06 Sweden-Liech'stein
07.10.06 Denmark-N Ireland
07.10.06 Latvia-Iceland
07.10.06 Sweden-Spain
11.10.06 Iceland-Sweden
11.10.06 Liech'stein-Denmark
11.10.06 N Ireland-Latvia
24.03.07 Liech'stein-N Ireland
24.03.07 Spain-Denmark
28.03.07 Liechtenstein-Latvia
28.03.07 N Ireland-Sweden
28.03.07 Spain-Iceland
02.06.07 Denmark-Sweden
02.06.07 Iceland-Liechtenstein
02.06.07 Latvia-Spain
06.06.07 Latvia-Denmark
06.06.07 Liechtenstein-Spain
06.06.07 Sweden-Iceland
22.08.07 N Ireland-Liech'stein
08.09.07 Iceland-Spain
08.09.07 Latvia-N Ireland
08.09.07 Sweden-Denmark
12.09.07 Denmark-Liech'stein
12.09.07 Iceland-N Ireland
12.09.07 Spain-Latvia
13.10.07 Denmark-Spain
13.10.07 Iceland-Latvia
13.10.07 Liech'stein-Sweden
17.10.07 Denmark-Latvia
17.10.07 Liech'stein-Iceland
17.10.07 Sweden-N Ireland
17.11.07 Latvia-Liechtenstein
17.11.07 N Ireland-Denmark
17.11.07 Spain-Sweden
21.11.07 Denmark-Iceland
21.11.07 Spain-N Ireland
21.11.07 Sweden-Latvia

Group G
02.09.06 Belarus-Albania
02.09.06 Luxembourg-Holland
02.09.06 Romania-Bulgaria
06.09.06 Albania-Romania
06.09.06 Bulgaria-Slovenia
06.09.06 Holland-Belarus
07.10.06 Bulgaria-Holland
07.10.06 Romania-Belarus
07.10.06 Slovenia-Luxembourg
11.10.06 Belarus-Slovenia
11.10.06 Holland-Albania
11.10.06 Luxembourg-Bulgaria
24.03.07 Albania-Slovenia
24.03.07 Holland-Romania
24.03.07 Luxembourg-Belarus
28.03.07 Bulgaria-Albania
28.03.07 Romania-Lux'bourg
28.03.07 Slovenia-Holland
02.06.07 Albania-Luxembourg
02.06.07 Belarus-Bulgaria
02.06.07 Slovenia-Romania
06.06.07 Bulgaria-Belarus
06.06.07 Luxembourg-Albania
06.06.07 Romania-Slovenia
08.09.07 Belarus-Romania
08.09.07 Holland-Bulgaria
08.09.07 Luxembourg-Slovenia
12.09.07 Albania-Holland
12.09.07 Bulgaria-Luxembourg
12.09.07 Slovenia-Belarus
13.10.07 Belarus-Luxembourg
13.10.07 Romania-Holland
13.10.07 Slovenia-Albania
17.10.07 Albania-Bulgaria
17.10.07 Holland-Slovenia
17.10.07 Lux'bourg-Romania
17.11.07 Albania-Belarus
17.11.07 Bulgaria-Romania
17.11.07 Holland-Luxembourg
21.11.07 Belarus-Holland
21.11.07 Romania-Albania
21.11.07 Slovenia-Bulgaria

Top two from each group qualify for finals. Austria and Switzerland qualify automatically as co-hosts

Finals tournament: June 7-29, 2008

the Knowledge

everything you need to know about...

Shirt sponsorship deals

THE WORLD'S BIGGEST shirt sponsorship deal is under threat because of the match-fixing scandal in Italy. Reports suggest that Libyan oil company Tamoil could pull out of its £75million, five-year deal with disgraced former champions Juventus, though the company has made no statement on the matter. The deal, which has been running for a year, is due to expire in 2010; Tamoil has the option to extend it by a further five years.

Dummy run...Solskjaer sports Man U's new shirt

The next biggest deal is Manchester United's £56.5m four-year contract with insurance company AIG (American International Group), which comes into effect this coming season. Previous sponsor Vodafone used a clause in its £9m-a-year contract to end its relationship with United after last year's takeover by Malcolm Glazer.

United rejected a proposed alternative deal with online gaming entertainment company Mansion claiming they had ethical concerns about dealing with a company whose main business is gambling. Instead, Mansion signed a £34m, four-year deal with Tottenham.

Not surprisingly, Real Madrid have the biggest deal in Spain, worth £14m a year. For the 2006-07 season, the shirts will sport the logo of BenQ, the Taiwanese telecoms company that recently bought out existing sponsor Siemens.

Barcelona are the biggest club to refuse to have shirt sponsorship. The European champions recently denied reports that a deal had been done with the Beijing Olympics organising committee to promote the Games.

Lyon have the biggest deal in France, where split sponsorship is common. In Champions League games, the Novotel logo is featured, while in Ligue 1 matches the sponsor is Ticket Restaurant.

Ajax were the first team to wear shirts bearing a sponsor's logo in a European Cup Final, in 1995. And the sponsor, the ABN AMRO bank, still has a deal with the Amsterdam club.

Game on...Tottenham signed a £34m deal with gaming entertainment company Mansion

Look, still no sponsor...Barcelona players pose in their kit for the coming season

Teams sponsored by breweries have sometimes had to ditch their usual shirts when playing against clubs from countries where alcohol advertising is banned. This was the case a few years ago when Rangers, then sponsored by McEwan's, played French side Auxerre in the Champions League.

Arsenal have the biggest overall sponsorship deal of any club, but their £100m arrangement with Emirates airlines includes stadium naming rights for 15 years; the shirt deal, which runs for eight years, is worth £5.5m per annum.

BIGGEST DEALS, VALUE PER YEAR

Juventus	£15m	Tamoil
Manchester United	£14.13m	AIG
Real Madrid	£14m	BenQ
Bayern Munich	£11.4m	T-Mobile
Chelsea	£10m	Samsung
Tottenham	£8.5m	Mansion
Borussia Dortmund	£8.3m	e-on
Lyon	£8.3m	Novotel/Ticket
Bayer Leverkusen	£6.6m	RWE
Milan	£6.2m	Opel
Arsenal	£5.5m	Emirates
Schalke	£5.2m	Victoria
Liverpool	£5m	Carlsberg
Ajax	£4.9m	ABN AMRO

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